24-HOUR DELAY FOR BATOTO

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I'VE FOUND A HOBBY LATELY, IRONING CLOTHES.
WHENEVER I SEE A STRAIGHTENED SHIRT I FEEL
RELAXED AND CALM
I WANT MORE SHIRTS.
KATSUKI HIKARU
Baby Steps

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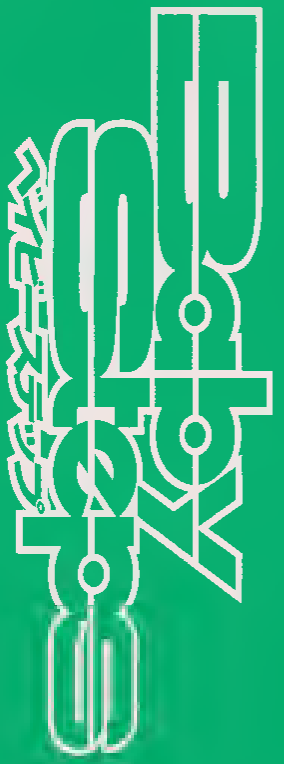

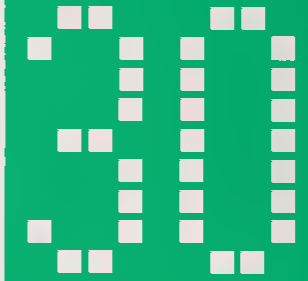

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Baby Steps
30
ベイビーステップ

# Baby Steps
ベイビーステップ

エーちゃんの応援を力に！
ナツ全日本ジュニア優勝!!

## 人物紹介

全日本ジュニア
THE 8H STRONGEST FROM ALL OF JAPAN'S PREFECTURES GATHER. THE WINNER WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALL JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP WHERE THE PROS GATHER
全日本ジュニア終幕!
女子優勝
WOMEN'S WINNER, NATSU TAKASAKI! HER FIRST VICTORY AGAINST HER LONG-TIME RIVAL AKI! HER FIRST NATIONAL VICTORY!
もう迷わない!
私はプロになる!!
男子優勝
MEN'S WINNER, YUU NABAE
KANDA, WHOM EI-CHAN LOST TO IN THE SEMIFINALS GAVE A CERTAIN MAN TWO CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
一方、エーちゃんは..
諦めきれない!!
HE COULDN'T WIN BUT...
HE WON'T ABANDON THE PATH OF THE PRO!
この2か月間もう一度…
stay true
アメリカに行ってみようと思います…
EI-CHAN'S TRAVEL TO GAIN STRENGTH HAS BEGUN!!!
EI-CHAN HAS ONCE MORE CHALLENGED HIMSELF TO CHASE THE DREAM OF BECOMING A PRO BY GOING TO THE ALL JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN TWO MONTHS. IN ORDER TO BECOME AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE, HE WILL SPEND THESE TWO MONTHS IN AMERICA!!

# Baby Steps to Giant Strides

## CONTENTS


#271: WHEN TO SHOOT

#272: YOUR OWN ARENA

#273: HEAD START

#274: EVERYTHING

#275: ORIGINAL FORM

#276: SMILE

#277: WIPEOUT

#278: BELLIGERENCE

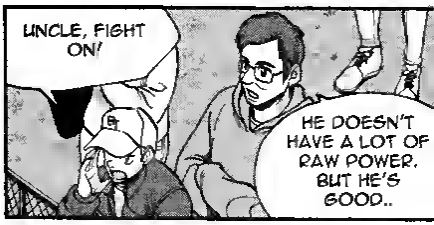
#279: FEAT OF STRENGTH

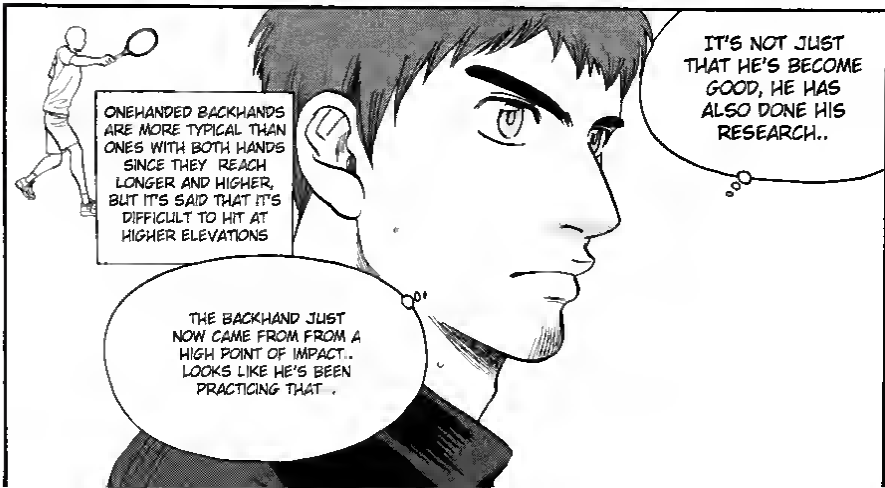
# #280: WHEN TO SHOOT

A WIDE AND FAST SLICE SERVE...
SEND A FLAT DEEP BALL TOWARDS HIS BACKHAND SIDE
THEN WITH A BOUNCE SPIN...

THEN I WON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO RETURN IT TO PETE...
IT CAME BACK RISING...
IN THAT CASE I'LL SEND A FAST BALL OVER..

AND JUST BEING ABLE TO DO THAT IS THANKS TO THESE ONE AND A HALF MONTHS..!
IF MY SERVES GO AS PLANNED I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE POINT
BOO-YAH
15 - 0


UNCLE, FIGHT ON!
HE DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF RAW POWER. BUT HE'S GOOD..


ONEHANDED BACKHANDS ARE MORE TYPICAL THAN ONES WITH BOTH HANDS SINCE THEY REACH LONGER AND HIGHER, BUT IT'S SAID THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO HIT AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS
IT'S NOT JUST THAT HE'S BECOME GOOD, HE HAS ALSO DONE HIS RESEARCH..
THE BACKHAND JUST NOW CAME FROM FROM A HIGH POINT OF IMPACT.. LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN PRACTICING THAT .

PETE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE «SLOW» TEMPO SERVE...
...BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO ACCORDING TO PLAN
IN THAT CASE...
ぐっ
THAT'S WHY I SHOULD HIT IT DEEP
DAMNIT.. HE GOT A GOOD RETURN

HNGH
WITH HIS GOOD EYES, REACH AND POWER HE'LL TAKE THE ADVANTAGE EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY SERVE GAME
WE SHOULD BE EVEN ON SOME THINGS.
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE OVERPOWERED HERE.
!!

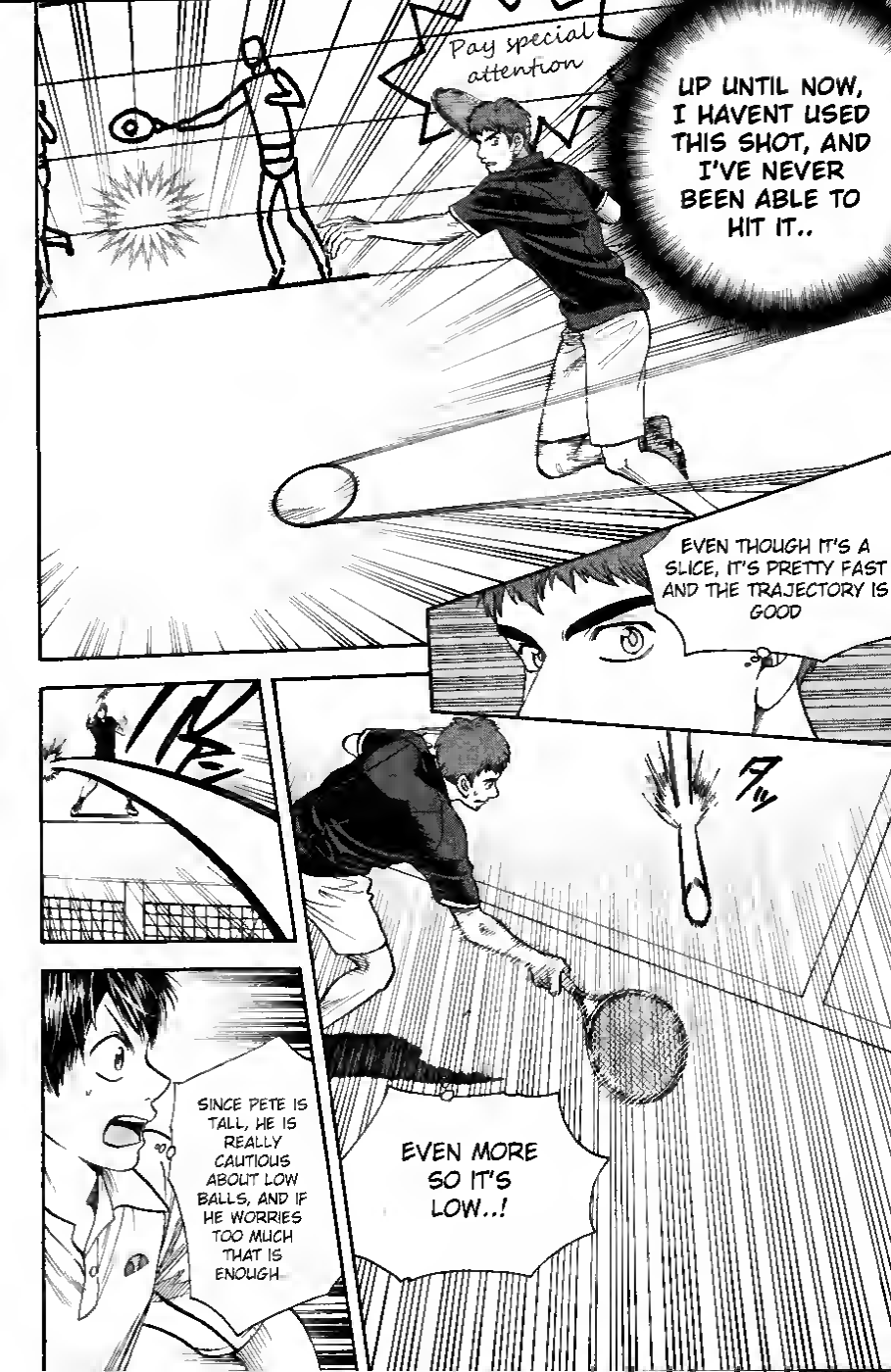
IT CAME AROUND!!
IT'S LOOSE!
NEVERTHELESS, IT CAME BACK MORE FORCIBLY THAN BEFORE

15—15
ARGGH
NO MATTER HOW MANY PRACTICE MATCHES I'VE HAD, HE'S FIGURED OUT WHAT I'M DOING
MOREOVER I HAVE LOST ALL OF THOSE MATCHES..
IN ADDITION TO BEING STRONG, HE KNOWS HIS OPPONENT. HOW SHOULD I ATTACK?
JUST GOING WITH ALL THE POWER I'VE GOT ISN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH.
..GONNA HAVE TO USE IT WELL...

GOT IT.. IF I CAN CHANGE THE TRAJECT-ORY OF THE BALL WITH A FAST SERVE I CAN DO IT
IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DO «FAST» SERVES, I ABSOLUTELY NEED TO USE «SLOW» ONES AS WELL
BUT I SHOULD MIX IN SLOW SERVES AS WELL
30—15
I'LL TAKE A RISK WITH THE TRAJECTORY
I'LL BE ABLE TO CONFUSE HIM WITH A ROTATION OF THOSE..
IF I AIM FOR THAT
GOOD..! I WON'T HAND OVER THIS ADVANTAGE
THAT WAS A GOOD SERVE..

I'M A LITTLE DISADVANTAGED JUST BEFORE HE RETURNS...
BUT EVEN IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO WE SHOULD BE EQUAL..
IN THE CASE MY ATTACK GETS COUNTERED THEN...

A FOREHAND... SLICE!?
!?
Babol
I'LL ATTACK WITH MY SLICE!!


Pay special attention
UP UNTIL NOW, I HAVENT USED THIS SHOT, AND I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HIT IT..
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SLICE, IT'S PRETTY FAST AND THE TRAJECTORY IS GOOD
IKE!
SINCE PETE IS TALL, HE IS REALLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT LOW BALLS, AND IF HE WORRIES TOO MUCH THAT IS ENOUGH
EVEN MORE SO IT'S LOW..!

FROM HERE ON IN, THE UNDECIDED JUMP SHOT WILL...
WHEN HE SCOOPS UP THE BALL THE RETURN MOST CERTAINLY IS A HIGH BALL
DECIDE EVERYTHING!

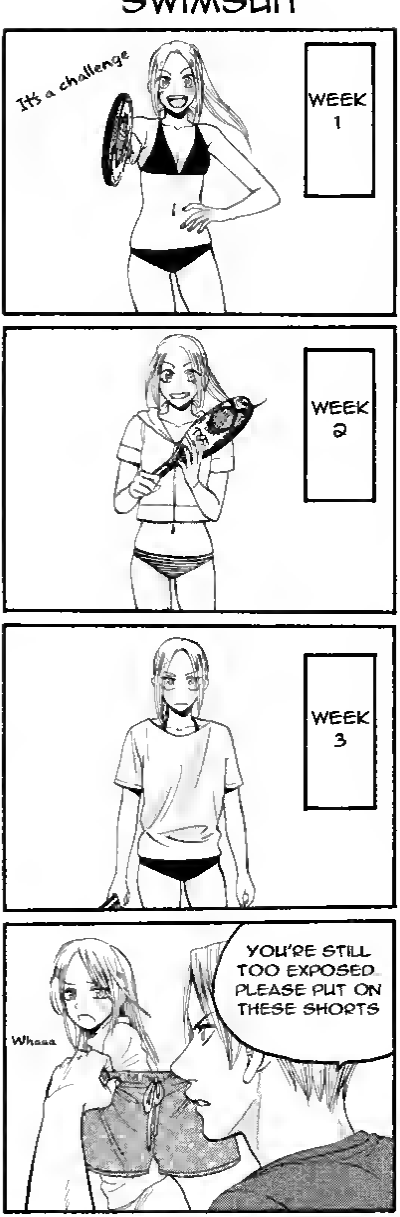
40—15
SO YOU HID SUCH A SHOT AWAY FROM ME HUH?
I WAS TOO CAREFUL IT SEEMS
IF I CAN WIN THE POINT HERE IT'LL BE BIG..
YES..! JUST AS PLANNED,
THE FOREHAND SLICE WORKED IN AN ACTUAL GAME!

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO BECOME MORE PASSIVE TO THE SLOW BALLS..
JUST ONE MORE CURVED SPIN TO GET THE TRAJEC-TORY TO CHANGE
EVEN THE SERVES COME AS SLICES TOO HUH..
THE BALLS CAME SLOW --> SLOW..
SO NEXT... IS THE JUMP SHOT HUH

THIS FORM IS THE SAME AS BEFORE WHEN HE USED THE SLICE...

WOW! NICE DROP!
IT WASN'T VERY EXCITING, BUT REALLY WELL DONE
GAME MARUO 1 — 1
ポン
HE GOT ME...
THAT WAS CERTAINLY A DROP... IT REALLY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD
IT WAS ONLY ONE SHOT,
BUT INCLUDING A CHANGE OF PACE PATTERN THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS I DO ARE COUNTLESS.. OR AT LEAST THEY SHOULD BE
BOOYAH..!! I MANAGED TO TRICK PETE WITH MY FOREHAND SLICE

I DIDN'T EXPECT MARUO TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND...
OH?
UNCLE PETE IS GOING TO WIN RIGHT?
DON'T YOU WORRY..
..HOWEVER, I NEED MORE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE IT INTO MY ATTACKS..
IN ANY CASE I'LL HAVE TO USE IT WELL
PETE ISN'T AFRAID OF ANY PITCHER AND HE IS THE BEST BATTER AROUND ISN'T HE?
NO MATTER THE OPPONENT, HE'LL DESTROY THEM
Babolat




## TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 11 – I failed to mention this last chapter, but the kid is saying "おじさん" (Ojisan), meaning uncle or old man. Since Pete is 18 years old I doubt it is the latter meaning and that he is in fact Pete's nephew.

Blitzfang~

# WE'RE RECRUITING!!

POSITIONS(OUR NEEDS):

CLEANER/REDRAWER (HIGH)
TYPESETTER (MEDIUM)
中国 TRANSLATOR (HIGH)
PROOFREADER (MEDIUM)
한국어 TRANSLATOR (HIGH)
日本語 TRANSLATOR (EXTREMELY HIGH)

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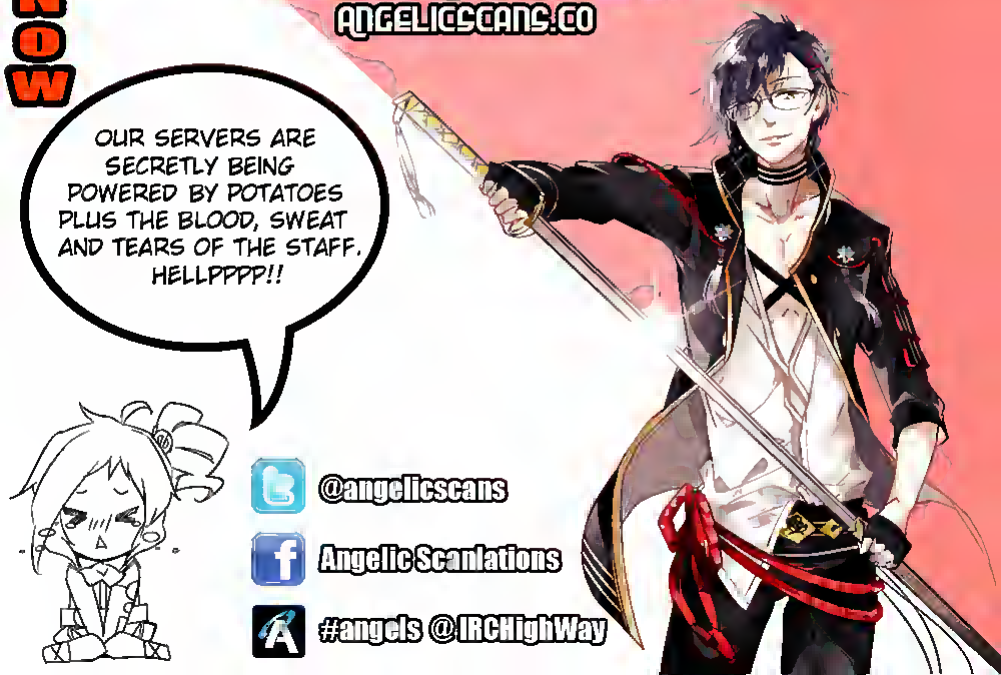


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IT'S GOING TO BE FINE, PETE WON'T LOSE
HE CERTAINLY IS AN OPPONENT THAT THROWS A LOT OF MIXED BALLS LIKE A PITCHER WOULD BUT-
UNCLE PETE HAS ALWAYS MANAGED TO DEFEAT OPPONENTS LIKE THIS
#281_YOUR OWN ARENA

I'M TRYING TO PREDICT THE INCOMING TRAJECTORY, BUT I CAN'T READ IT
IN ANY CASE, I WON'T LET HIM GET AN ADVANTAGE EASILY!
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
UGH
EVEN THOUGH HE READ MY SERVE TO SOME EXTENT, I STILL HOLD THE ADVANTAGE
IN THAT CASE...
Direction of movement
PROBABLY... WIDE!

IT LOW-ERED A LITTLE?
PETE REALLY FA-VOURS THE FRONT OF THE COURT SO WHY?

IT'S NOT HARD JUST GETTING USED TO A SLICE COMING FROM A FOREHAND, IT'S ALSO HARD TO RETURN
AND THANKS TO THAT MARUO'S ATTACK OPTIONS HAVE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED AND CAN THUSLY CONTROL THE PACE EFFECTIVELY
ESPECIALLY THE SEVERE JUMPSHOT COMBINATION
A COMBINATION FASTBALL WITH TIMING THAT SENDS A DEVASTATING CURVEBALL...
THEN LOW. !
THAT FOREHAND SLICE IS AMONG THE BEST OF MARUO'S SHOTS...
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
UP UNTIL NOW I VE PINNED DOWN STRAIGHT BALLS AND SLIDERS PERFECTLY
HE MIGHT TRY TO THROW OTHER BALLS TOO, BUT THIS IS WHERE I WILL WIN
5

THE CHANCES OF HIM TAKING A RISK IS PRETTY LOW
IN ORDER TO SECURE A POINT FOR THE TEAM, I'LL GET IT RELIABLY....
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THIS ACE'S STRAIGHT BALL AND SLIDER
JUST BY A LITTLE, STARING AT THE BALL FOR A LONG TIME HE MIGHT STEP BACK A LITTLE..
IF I IMAGINE A SLOW BALL, THEN IF A FAST ONE COMES I WON'T BE ABLE TO REACT.
SO I'LL IMAGINE A FAST BALL AND WAIT....

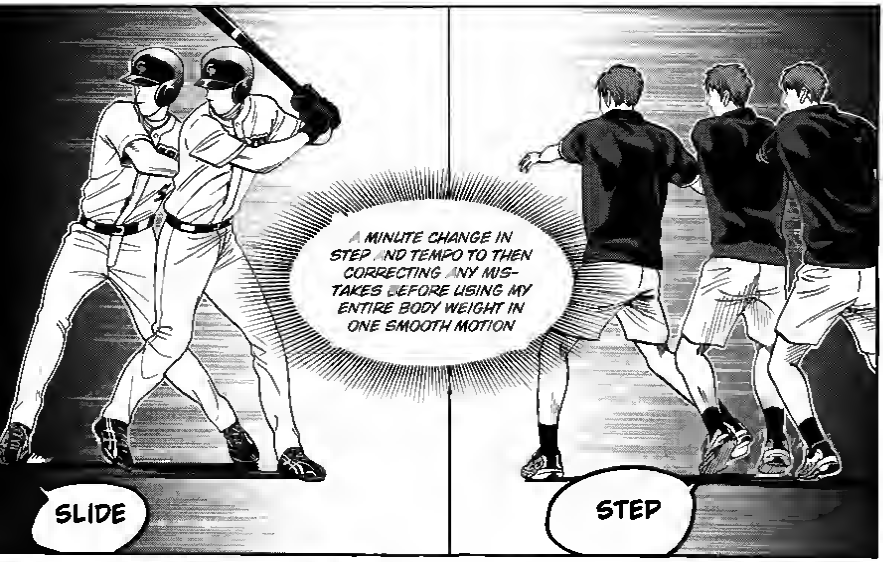
IN THAT CASE...
MARUO'S JUMPSHOTS AND SLICES ARE HIS WEAPONS AND MAIN POINT WINNERS
WHATEVER COMES I'LL DESTROY IT...
BY LOOKING AT HIS FORM I CAN SEE QUICKLY WHICH SHOT HE INTENDS TO USE...

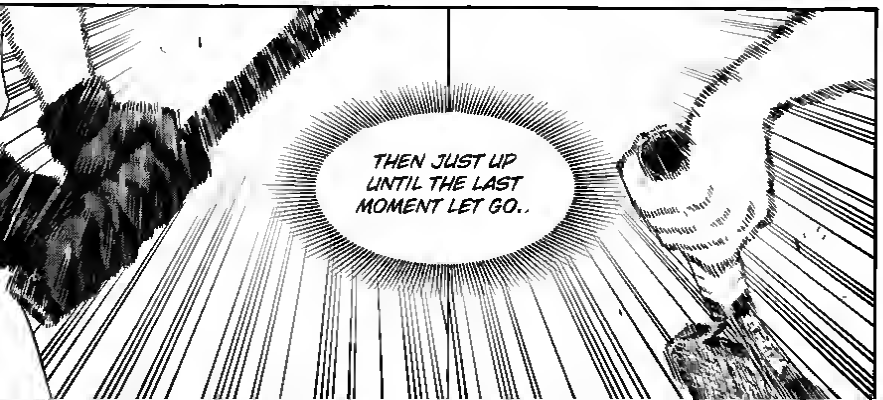
A NORMAL RISING SHOT.. SO FAR IT'S BEEN THE SAME UP UNTIL NOW
BASICALLY I JUST HAVE TO BE READY AT ANY TIME WHEN-EVER THE FAST JUMPSHOT COMES...
BY GOING LOW THE AREA HE HAS TO DEFEND HAS GOTTEN PRETTY WIDE
HOWEVER, I'M INCREAS-ING THE POWER OF THE BALL
EVEN IF A SLOW BALL COMES I'LL SECURE THE DISTANCE AND TIME AND RE-ESTAB-LISH MY OWN TIMING
WHEN IT LOWERS I CAN MAKE DUE WITH JUST A BIT OF LEEWAY
BUT THE RISKS FROM BEFORE HAVE DE-CREASED
SO THAT'S WHY I SHOULD SEIZE MY CHANCE
MY RETURN GAME WILL BE ASSERTIVE
タン
!

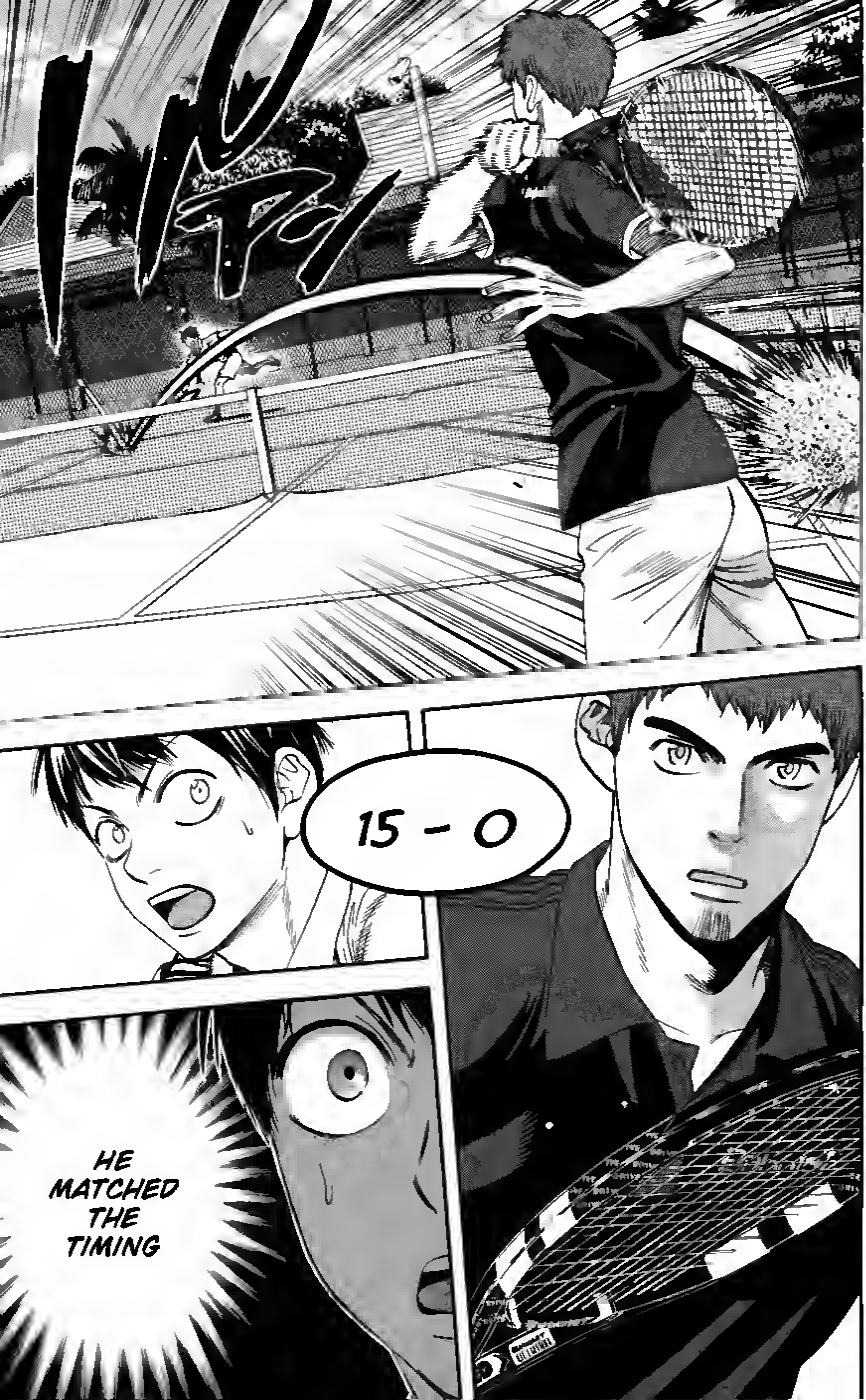
I'LL USE THE JUMP-SHOT..!
IT CAME!
!
HE RETURNED IT WITHOUT BREAKING SWEAT FROM SUCH A POSITION!

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN IMMEDIATELY
UGH
A FOREHAND SLICE!
SLIDER!

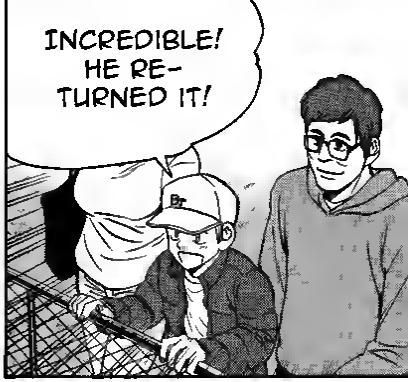
SEEING THROUGH THE TYPE OF PITCH WHILE IMAGINING A STRAIGHT BALL, MY BODY ALREADY STARTS TO REACT TO ANY CHANGES


A MINUTE CHANGE IN STEP AND TEMPO TO THEN CORRECTING ANY MISTAKES BEFORE USING MY ENTIRE BODY WEIGHT IN ONE SMOOTH MOTION
SLIDE
STEP


THEN JUST UP UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT LET GO..


15 - 0
HE MATCHED THE TIMING

YOU'RE RIGHT
I TOLD YOU DIDN'T I? AGAINST AN OPPONENT LIKE THAT, PETE HAS A LOT OF STRENGTHS TO PLAY ON


INCREDIBLE! HE RETURNED IT!

MY WEAPONS.. RELYING ON THE FAST AND SLOW BALL AS A SETUP FOR BOTH THE JUMPSHOT AND SLICE
PETE IS AIMING TO DESTROY THE CORE OF MY ATTACKS

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... HE DEALT WITH THE TEMPO BY PUTTING HIS ENTIRE BODY INTO THE SHOT?

WHAT INCREDIBLE STRENGTH..
SO THIS IS THE TRUE STRENGTH OF A TOP ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR PLAYER

NO... CALM DOWN
JUST BECAUSE HE RETURNED ONE BALL DOESN'T MEAN THAT MY FOREHAND SLICE IS INVALID...
ガリ ガリ ガリ
I CAN STILL DO THIS...
I SHOULD ONLY USE IT IN POSITIONS I HAVEN'T USED IT BEFORE
THE PROBLEM IS THE METHOD...

CENTER.. I'LL HAVE TO RISK IT
!
AND RELY ON THE DATA!!

HE OBVI-
OUSLY
READ ME
HAAA!
I'LL TAKE
THE AD-
VANTAGE
ON THE
RETURN
WITH ONE
STRIKE..!

オオ..
15—15
YES!
FIRSTLY, MAKE USE OF MY DATA AND ATTACK THE SERVE TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE.
THEN USE MY WEAPONS EFFECTIVELY.. I'LL MAKE THIS MY OWN ARENA!
進行方向

Eiichiro Maruo's practise match results

vs. Pete

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-6 | 1-6 | 3-6 | 4-6 | 2-6 | 4-6 | 5-7 | 4-6 |

To start with, his power and reaction are so good that keeping my own games is hard, but in the latter half my shots hit a lot more

vs. Alex

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1-6 | 3-6 | 4-6 | 2-6 |

My previous information is no longer valid, I'm having trouble against his improved forehand

vs. Krishna

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4-6 | 5-7 | 7-6 | 6-4 |

Two stubborn victories. Good and equal matches but Krishna has the edge on closing out games.

vs. Kanda

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4-6 | 6-7 | 4-6 | 6-4 | 7-6 | 3-6 | 6-4 | 7-5 |

Kanda's eggball and IMG's hard courts are very compatible. The first match was a close one. I won more in the latter half. I'd say it's about 50-50.

Baby Steps

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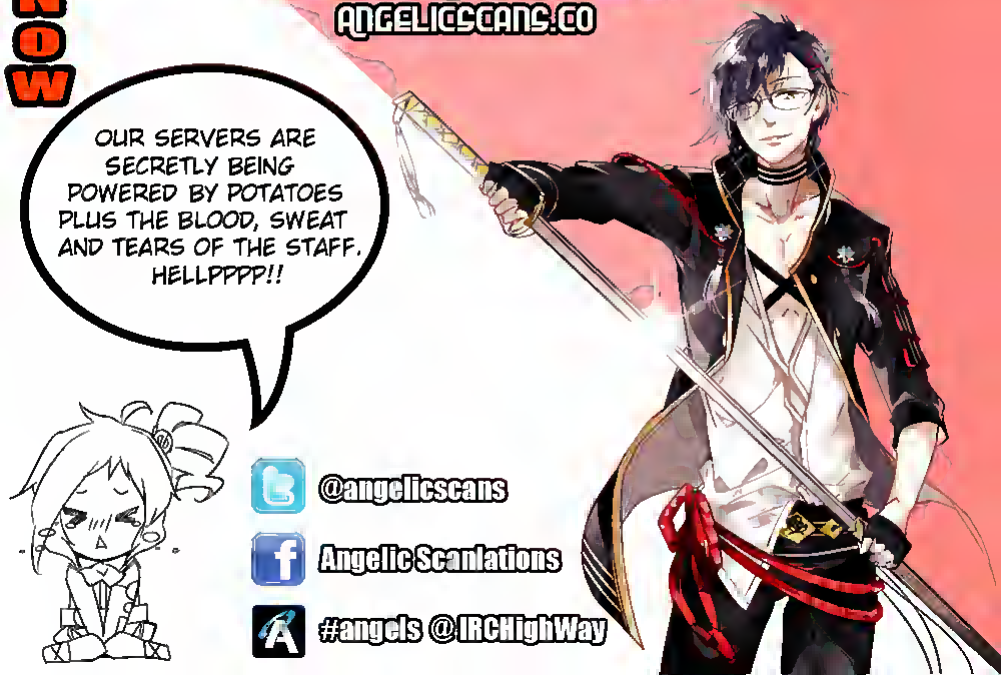


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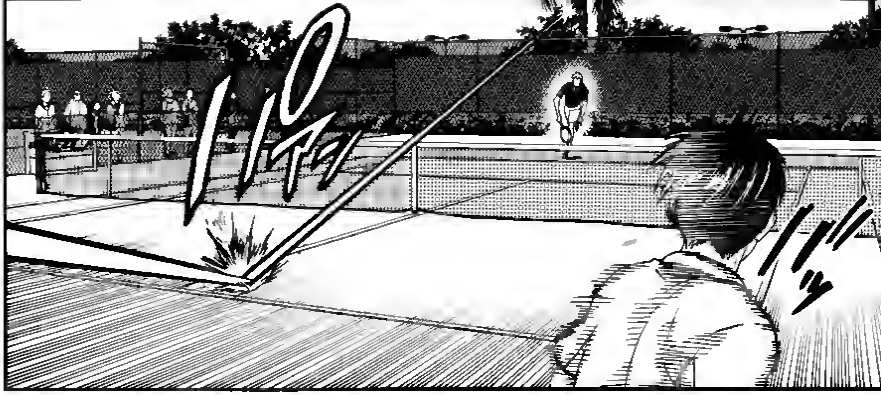
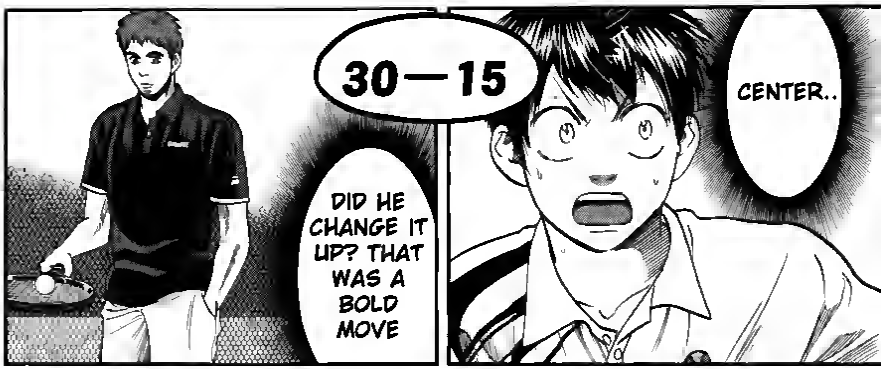
I II III
E.Maruo
(JPN)
P.Gonzales
(USA)
PETE IS ADJUSTING TO MY FAST AND SLOW BALL STRATEGY REALLY FAST...
BUT I CAN SOMEHOW READ THE TRAJECTORY, SO IF I CAN FIND A CLUE WHERE TO ATTACK...
IT'S WIDE!

# #282: HEAD START

ビクッ
ビリ
ビリ

THE SECOND SERVE IS MY CHAN-CE...!
AS I THOUGHT... HE IS READING MY STANCE
UP TO THIS POINT I'VE BEEN TOO PREDICTABLE SO I HAVE TO CHANGE THINGS UP A BIT..
ドキ
ドキ
F-FAST
I'LL USE THE WIDE STANCE, BUT...
WIDE ONCE MORE...
THIS ONE...

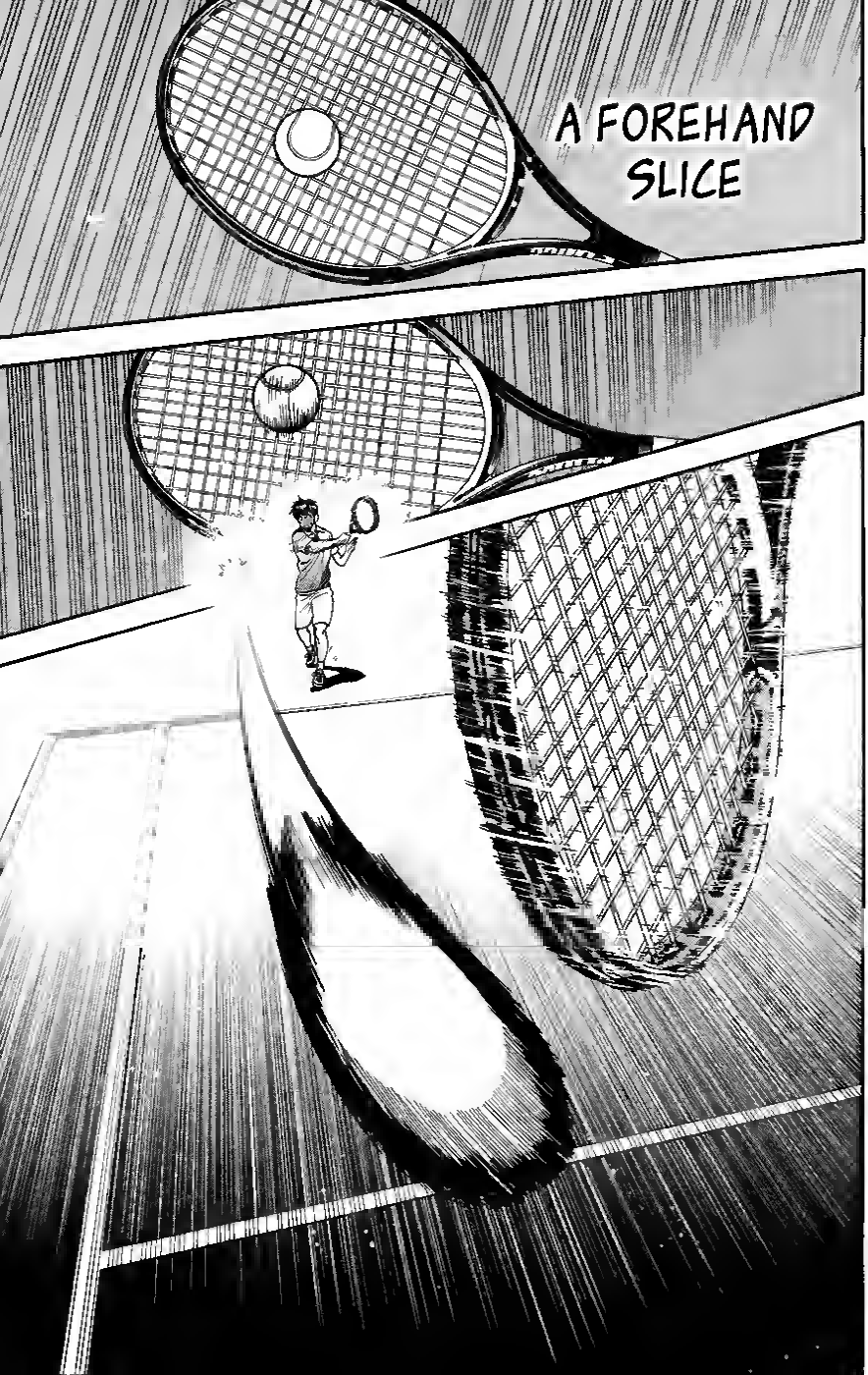

パコン

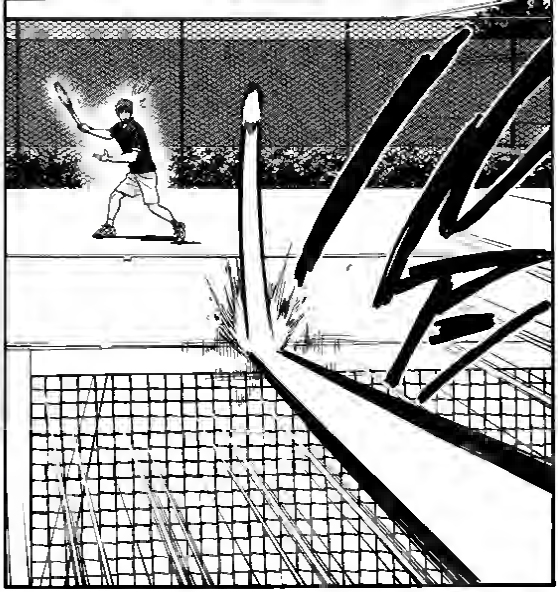

30—15
DID HE CHANGE IT UP? THAT WAS A BOLD MOVE
CENTER..

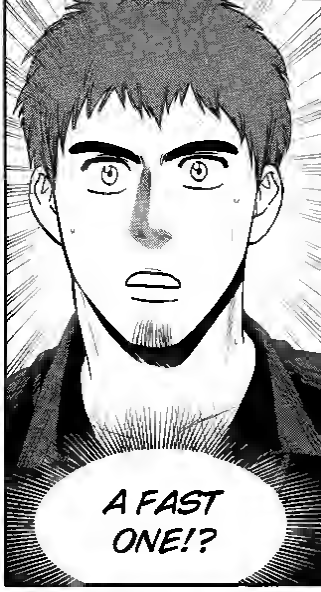
HIS FORM IS NEITHER FOR A CENTER NOR WIDE SHOT.. SO.. BODY?
THAT'S PROBABLY FROM HIM ADJUSTING SO I'LL JUST WATCH CAREFULLY AND MAKE MY MOVE
BUT THIS SERVE WAS BIT SLOWER COMPARED TO THE OTHER ONES
フン——
OK.. FIRSTLY IT'LL BE KIND OF LIKE THIS HUH..
abolar

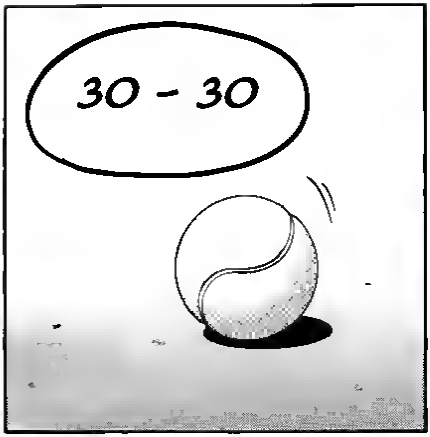
NO, IT'S TOWARDS THE CENTER!
UGH
BUT HIS POWER HAS GONE DOWN SO I CAN RETURN THE BALL EASIER
JUST AS I THOUGHT, HE IS INTENDING TO MIX UP HIS STANCE AND THE TRAJECTORY OF HIS SERVES
WE'RE COMPLETELY EQUAL...

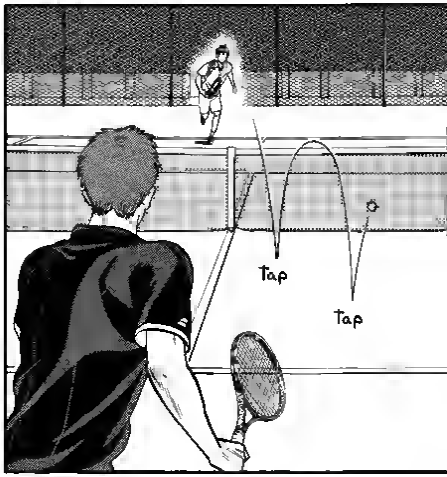
PETE IS PROBABLY AIMING FOR THE FOREHAND SLICE..
IS HE GOING FOR A FOREHAND SLICE AGAIN?
IN THAT CASE...
I HAVE TO BE VIGILANT
IF IT'S A SLOW SLICE THEN I'LL AIM TO MATCH THE TEMPO
THERE WON'T BE A JUMPSHOT FROM THAT FOREHAND SLICE...
USUALLY I CAN ASSUME IT'S A FAST RISING...
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT IT CAN BE A DROP TOO


A FOREHAND
SLICE




A FAST ONE!?


30 - 30


Tap
Tap

I-I'M SORRY!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A SLICE IT WAS REALLY FAST
HEY.. WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?
CAN YOU REALLY FIRE OFF A SLICE AS FAST AS THAT?
SO MARUO HAS MORE THAN ONE SLICE HUH..
THIS GUY.. HE SERIOUSLY USED THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT. MAKE IT FASTER!
T-THAT...
WAS INCREDIBLY LUCKY

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
THAT'S IT. IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT WITH THIS KIND OF POWER YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK SO EASILY!
HM?
CAN I TRY TO MAKE THIS SLICE FASTER?
IMG ACADEMY
WHA...? MAKE IT FASTER THAN WHAT IT ALREADY IS?
IN BASEBALL, A SLICE IS SIMILAR TO A FASTBALL IN THAT IT BACKSPINS
YEAH. I THINK I FOUND A COUNTER AGAINST PETE WHEN I LOOKED INTO BASEBALL

I WANT TO INCREASE MY FOREHAND SLICE VARIATIONS BY ADDING THE UNDERSPIN... OR SO I THOUGHT
WELL... IT CERTAINLY CAN BE DONE IN THEORY, BUT..
BUT THE RISK FAR OUT-WEIGHS THE REWARDS THOUGH
BUT IT'S NOT IMPOSS-IBLE RIGHT?
YEAH BUT YOU GET IT RIGHT? THIS IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
(SPIN (ROTATION AND GRAVITY KICKS IN)
THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS AROUND 1%
STRAIGHT (GRAVITY KICKS IN)
BACKSPIN (GOES AGAINST GRAVITY AND AS A TRADE OFF EXTENDS FLIGHT)
FURTHERMORE, AN INCREASE IN SPEED WILL DEMAND THAT YOU MAKE THE SHOT PERFECT, AND IF NOT IT WILL GO OUT OF BOUNDS
AFTER ALL, THERE'S THE NET IN TENNIS AND BECAUSE OF THE BACKSPIN THE TRAJECTORY OF THE SHOT WILL LENGTHEN
I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY HIGH HOPES, SO I THINK YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO PUSH YOUR LUCK.
I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU WANT TO EXPAND YOUR CHANGE OF PACE BUT..
FROM SOMEONE WITH A HIGH RBI A ONE MIGHT DECIDE TO RISK IT PERHAPS

TL NOTE: RBI OR RUN BATTED IN IS A STATISTIC IN BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL THAT CREDITS A BATTER FOR MAKING A PLAY THAT ALLOWS A RUN TO BE SCORED HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/RUN_BATTED_IN

BUT... I... I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE NECESSARY IN THE ALL JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP...
HUH?
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO BE FIGHTING OPPONENTS WITH MUCH BETTER PHYSIQUES THAN MYSELF...
I KNOW IT'S INEFFICIENT, BUT I'D RATHER HAVE SOMETHING,
AND THAT SOMETHING IS WHAT I WANT TO BRING BACK TO JAPAN
NO MATTER HOW STRONG I GET PHYSICALLY,
IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO WIN.
IN ORDER TO GET RESULTS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT BIG SOMETHING
IF IT GOES IN THEN IT'S TO MY BENEFIT,
BUT IF IT DOESN'T OR MISSES JUST SLIGHTLY, IT'LL BE SOMEWHAT OF A SUCCESS
EVEN A TEMPERED BLADE SHOULD BECOME A POTENT WEAPON IF USED PROPERLY!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT SHOT CAN WORK EACH TIME
WON'T LET YOU READ THE COURSE EITHER
GOOD... THERE'S NO CHANGE IN HIS POSTURE.
THIS IS MY GREATEST CHANCE..!

I'LL GET IT ON THE SECOND SERVE!
TO AVOID THE FOREHAND I'LL SEND IT TO HIS BACKHAND SIDE.
I'M STILL NOT AT A DISADVANTAGE... I'LL NEED TO BE PATIENT
!

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO GET ANY SHOT I'LL HAVE TO ASSUME HE'LL GO FOR A FAST JUMP SHOT...
FAST BALL... SLOW BALL...
IS THE SLICE COMING?
HE MANAGED TO TURN IT AROUND...
Babolat
A NORMAL JUMP SHOT!

I WON'T LET IN THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP!
BREAK POINT..!
30—40
THOSE TWO ARE ENGAGED IN A BATTLE OF TACTICS...
PETE, ON TOP OF HAVING HIS SERVES READ BY MARUO IS ALSO UNABLE TO DESTROY THE SHOTS COMING FROM THE FRONT
HE'S JUST NOT ABLE TO PLAY HIS TENNIS BY WINNING THROUGH SHEER PHYSICAL FORCE
WHICH IS TO SAY THAT MARUO IS ABLE TO PLAY HIS OWN TYPE OF TENNIS

NO, MARUO IS EQUIPPED WITH HIS NOTES AND FOREHAND SLICE AS HIS WEAPONS..
AND PETE IS BEING INVITED TO PLAY HIS TENNIS

GAME, MARUO 2-1
IN THE NINTH MATCH AGAINST PETE, MARUO GETS HIS FIRST BREAK POINT!

# #283: EVERYTHING

BUT THERE IS STILL FIGHT IN ME YET
WHAT'S MORE, HE CAN READ MY ORDINARY SERVES TRAJECTORY.
AS EXPECTED, DEALING WITH THEM WILL BECOME DIFFICULT IF IT GOES BEYOND THREE MATCH BALLS
THE CHANGE IN PACE OF THE FOREHAND SLICE OF HIS JUMP SHOTS..
ULTIMATELY, KEEPING THIS LEAD WON'T BE EASY
I MUST USE THEM ONLY WHEN IT'S NECESSARY
HOWEVER, I NEED TO USE MY FOREHAND SLICES MORE SPARINGLY
TAKING THE BREAK POINT WAS HUGE
TIME

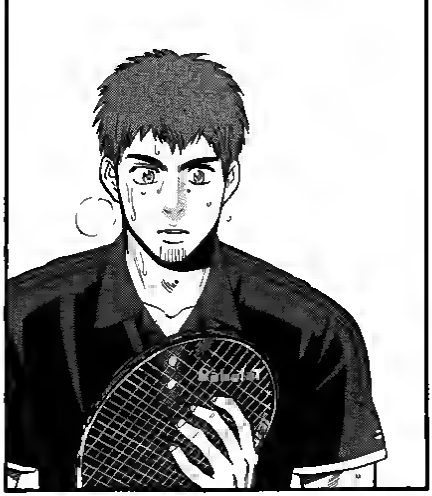
FIRST, I ABSOLUTELY MUST KEEP MY OWN SERVE GAMES
AT THE SAME TIME, I NEED TO CONSIDER THE PROBABILITY OF THE SERVES AND TRAJECTORY
I CAN'T CHANGE MY ATTACKING STANCE

EIICHIRO TRIED HIS BEST DESPITE HIS INEXPERIENCE WITH FOREHAND SLICES, HOWEVER...
PETE CONTINUED TO TRY AND FIND AN OPENING IN EIICHIRO'S ATTACKS
GAME: MARUO 3 — 1
HE USED THEM SPARINGLY AND EFFECTIVELY
IN THE END MARUO SNATCHED PETE'S TIMING AWAY

HE IS PROBABLY AIMING FOR THE CENTRE BUT...
ユラ!
WHILE READING PETE'S SERVES, MARUO STARTED TO GET A BAD FEELING AS PETE STARTED CHANGING HIS PLAY PATTERNS
IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE SITUATION IN HIS FAVOUR
URR!
I KNEW IT!
ONCE AGAIN PETE'S SERVING GAVE HIM AN OPENING
NOT ONLY IS IT DIFFICULT TO READ HIM, KEEPING UP WITH HIS TEMPO IS ALSO CHALLENGING
HE ISN'T YIELDING AN INCH, AND HIS SERVES ARE GETTING HARDER TO ANTICIPATE
3 — 2

NEVERTHELESS, EIICHIRO CONTINUED TO DOMINATE HIS SERVE GAMES ATTRIBUTED TO HIS SUPERIOR STRIKING
THIS SHOT WILL ADJUST THE TEMPO IN MY FAVOUR
BUT AS THE GAME WENT ON PETE'S BRILLIANT REBOUND GAME TURNED THINGS AROUND

DAMN IT, THAT WAS NO GOOD?
IF I MAKE A MISTAKE WITH MY FOREHAND SLICE IT WILL BECOMES A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD
BUT I HAVE MORE WEAPONS AT MY DISPOSAL THAT I CAN USE
EIICHIRO USED HIS ABILITIES SYSTEMATICALLY AND MANAGED TO KEEP THE LEAD
10
I II III
E.Maruo (JPN) 5
P.Gonzales (USA) 4
WITHOUT EITHER MANAGING TO GET A BREAK POINT THE MATCH HASTENED INTO A TEN POINT GAME



BUT I HAD THE SELF-CONFIDENCE IN MY HITS EVEN BEFORE I SENT THE LAST PITCHER TO THE BENCH.
IN BASEBALL, NO MATTER THE OPPOSITION, I ALWAYS KEEP MY BATTING PERCENTAGE OVER 40.

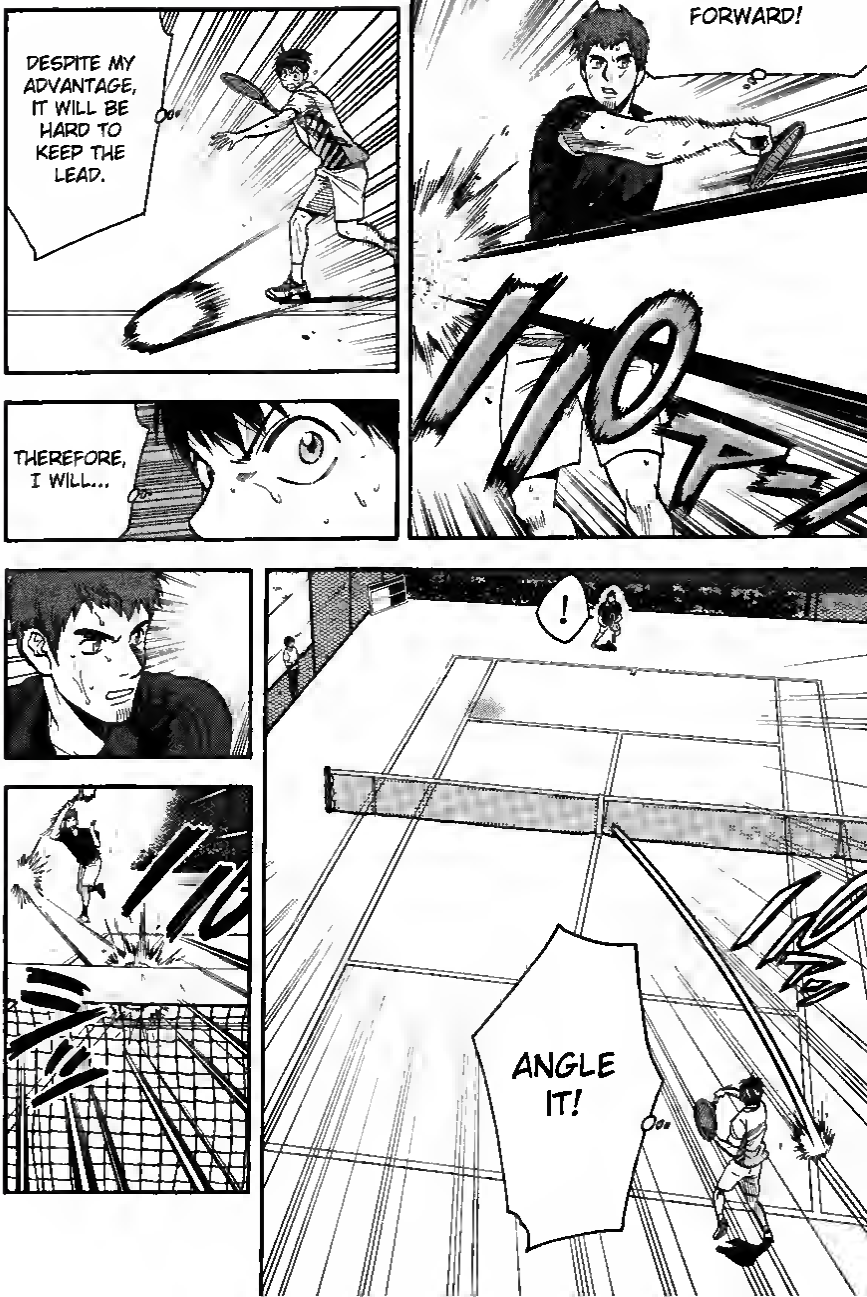
I WILL CRUSH HIM

IF THIS KEEPS UP I'M DONE

I NEED TO TAKE MORE CALCULATED RISKS ON THE IMPORTANT SERVES.
THE SITUATION WILL CHANGE DRASTICALLY
BUT IF I CAN TAKE A FIRM GRASP ON THIS SET,
?!
IF A CHANCE FOR WINNING THE MATCH BALL ARRIVES
HIS BEST SERVE TODAY
I WILL TAKE IT!

I WILL TAKE THE CHANCE TO END IT
TO ENSURE THAT PETE DOESN'T TAKE THE GAME,
WHY...? EVEN WHEN I PUT ON ALL THIS PRESSURE, THE MATCH BALL DOESN'T COME

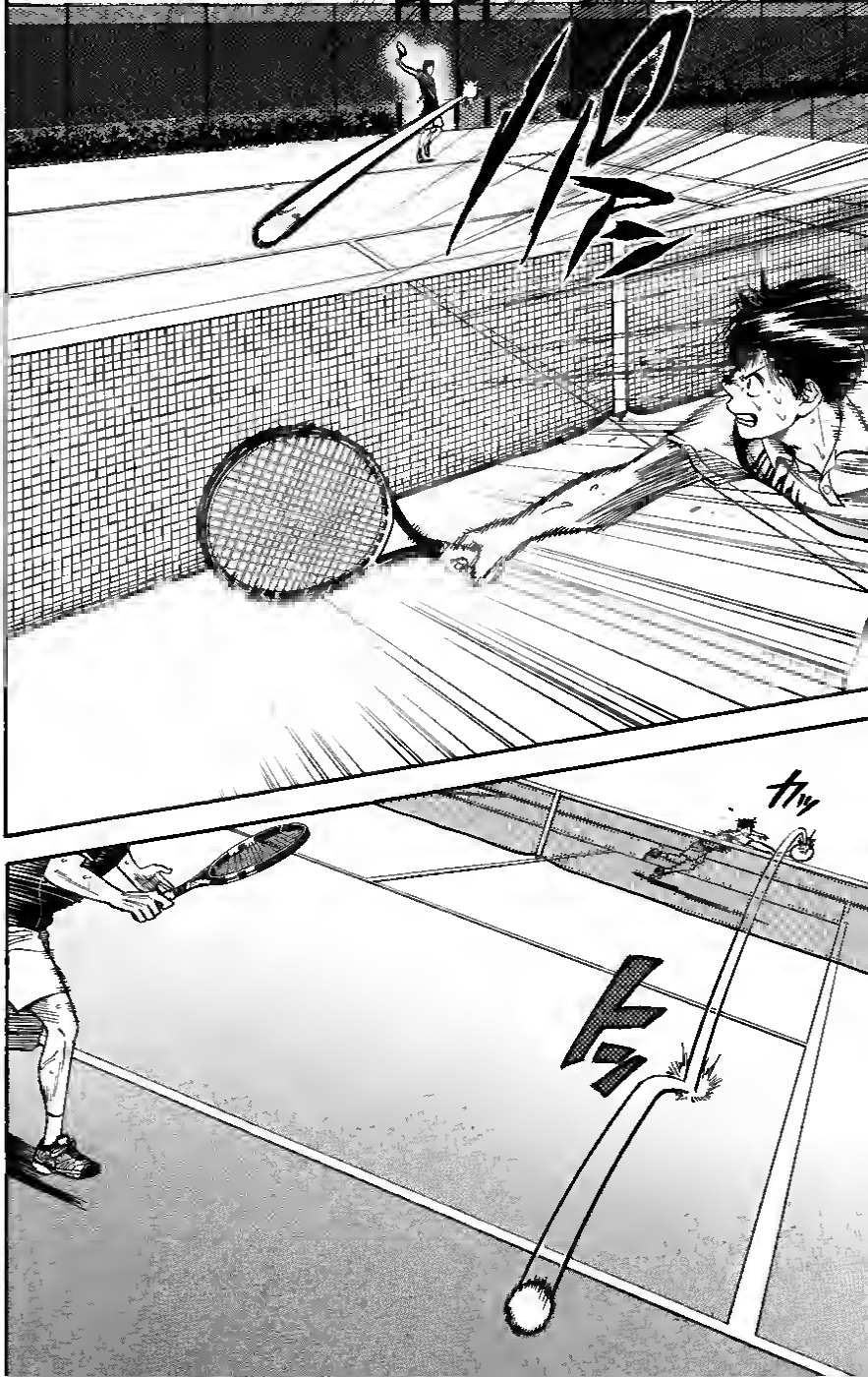
ONE GLANCE AT THAT NOTEBOOK AND IT'S OBVIOUS!
I CAN'T USE SHOTS THAT HE CAN READ EASILY
BUT I WON'T LOSE THE LEAD!
SUCH A LONG RALLY
ARE THEY TESTING EACH OTHER OUT?
IN LONG RALLIES, HOW WELL YOU PRESERVE YOUR CONCENTRATION DEPENDS ON YOUR PHYSICAL FOUNDATION,
AND THE EMOTIONAL STRENGTH TO COMBAT FATIGUE
I REPEATED THE 400 METRE SPRINT EIGHT TIMES CONSECUTIVELY TO SHAPE MY PHYSIQUE


THIS SHOT WILL MOVE THE STALEMATE FORWARD!
DESPITE MY ADVANTAGE, IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP THE LEAD.
THEREFORE, I WILL...
!
ANGLE IT!

I KNOW THAT I DEPEND A LOT ON THESE TWO SHOTS
15—0
YES!
I SCORED A POINT EVEN WITHOUT USING JUMP SHOTS AND FOREHAND SLICES
BUT NOT USING THEM IS ALSO AN OPTION.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO UTILIZE ALL OF MY TOOLS
THIS IS HUGE!
NEXT..

CENTRE!
I STILL CAN'T MAKE THE MATCH POINT?
RUSH THE NET!

EVEN IN MY SPARE TIME IN FLORIDA I IMPROVED MY SIGHT IN DIFFERENT WAYS...
SO THAT I COULD TRANSFER THOSE SKILLS TO THE COURT
IF MY EYES ARE GOOD ENOUGH...
I CAN JUST WAIT UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT AND...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30— 0
ALRIGHT!
MY EYESIGHT CAN EVEN CHALLENGE PETE, IMG'S NUMBER ONE.

MARUO IS A STRATEGIST
NO... IT'S NOT THAT STRANGE,
EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE
IS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO WIN THE MATCH BALL IN AN IMPORTANT GAME LIKE THIS?
TWO POINTS LEFT, ONE SET MORE!
HUH? DAD?

ANGELS ARISE
TRANSLATOR
PROOFREADER
CLEANER
REDRAWER
LYPESETTER
QUALITY CHECKER
BLACKWILL
BENTOKEY
THELOVE_CLEANER
THELOVE_CLEANER
BENTOKEY
THELOVE_CLEANER
Baby Steps
ANGELIC
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.ANGELICSCANS.CO
JOIN US ON IRC #ANGELS

# WE'RE RECRUITING!!

POSITIONS(OUR NEEDS):

CLEANER/REDRAWER (HIGH)
TYPESETTER (MEDIUM)
中国 TRANSLATOR (HIGH)
PROOFREADER (MEDIUM)
한국어 TRANSLATOR (HIGH)
日本語 TRANSLATOR (EXTREMELY HIGH)

Experience not Required! :)
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# Feeling Generous?

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ALL DONATIONS WILL BE USED FOR HQ-RAWS
AND TO KEEP OUR SERVERS UP.
FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
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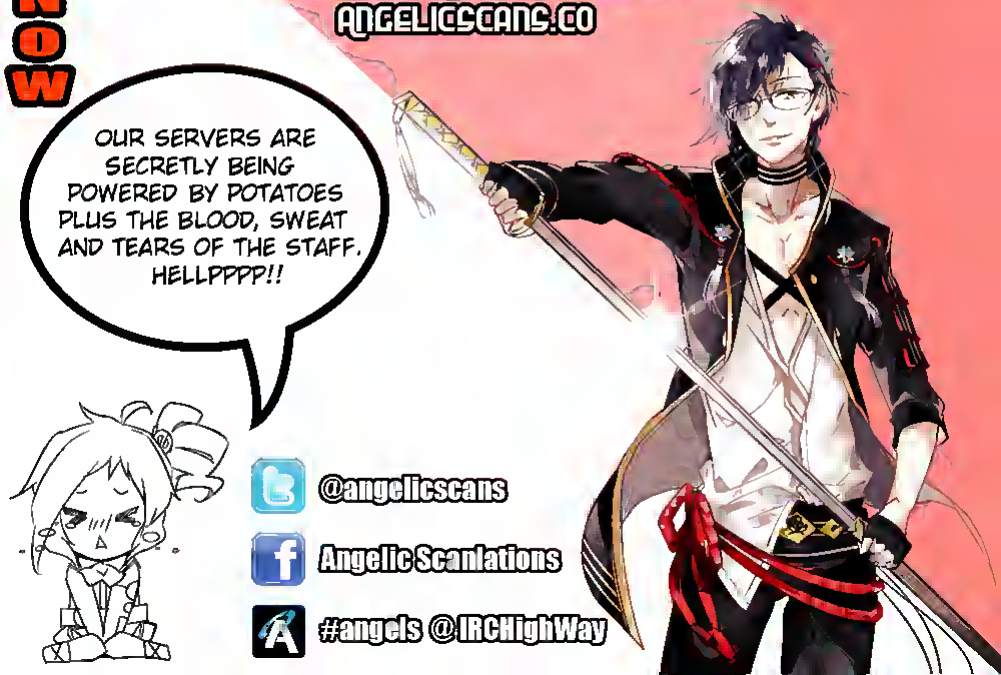


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Angelic Scanlations

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# #284: ORIGINAL FORM

Baby Steps

IT'S NOT THAT OFTEN THAT I GET TO WATCH PETE PLAY, BUT-
BY CHANCE, TODAY I FINISHED WORK EARLY
OH? DAD
NOT ALL THAT BAD,
BUT HIS OPPONENT IS LIKE NONE OTHER
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW IS PETE DOING?
WE ARE IN THE CRUCIAL PART OF THIS SET, AND HE IS NOT USING HIS FOREHAND SLICES AND JUMPSHOTS.
I AM AT A LOSS FOR WHAT HE WILL DO NEXT, THEREFORE I CAN'T REJECT ANY POSSIBLE SHOTS

I BELIEVE I CAN TAKE THIS SET POINT, BUT ONE WRONG MOVE CAN LEAD TO FAILURE
IN ORDER TO TAKE THIS SET POINT I SHOULD "WAIT FOR HIS FAST JUMPSHOT" FOR NOW.
THE TEMPO OF PETES RETURNS IS FANTASTIC
BUT I CAN'T ONLY PLAY THE WAITING GAME, I SHOULD ALSO LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON THE OFFENCE

IT'S FINE IF THE BALL COMES IN FROM A HIGH POINT
OK! LET'S NOT GIVE UP THE ADVAN-TAGE
I HAVE TO SCORE THE SET POINT. OTHERWISE PETE WILL SURELY FIND A WAY TO ATTACK.
IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED, I CAN STAND TO TAKE SOME RISKS, SINCE I HAVE YET TO TAKE TOO MANY
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS I NEED TO SEARCH FOR AN OPENING.

DEEP!
SPIN ON THE FORE-HAND SIDE
1/81!
WHAT NEXT?
WHAT'S COMING NOW?
I HAVE STUDIED THE WAY BEACH TENNIS IMPACTS THE SPEED OF THE BALL.
WHEN THE BALL ARRIVES SLOWLY

THE TIMING BECOMES EXTREMELY..
A RISING FOREHAND SLICE!?
THE TIMING IS SO TIGHT
SUCH A SLOW BALL

CORRECTING THE TIMING ON MARUO'S SLICE...
HERE COMES THE MATCH BALL .. IT CAME BEFORE ALREADY TOO.
HIT!

OUT
40—0
CLOSE!
THAT WAS CLOSE. EVEN THOUGH I MESSED UP HIS TIMING, HE ALMOST CORRECTED IT?
BUT THIS IS A TRIPLE SET POINT. I WILL DETERMINE THIS NOW!
FOR ONE, PETE HAS GROWN MORE ACCUSTOMED TO MY FOREHAND SLICES
THOUGH WE ARE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE SET, PETE CAN STILL COME BACK

BEFORE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS I WILL GO FOR IT
3 2 1 6 4
I WILL USE ALL OF THE 20 SECONDS I HAVE TO RECUPERATE
15 SECONDS LEFT
THE REMAINING FIVE SECONDS I WILL AFIX A MENTAL IMAGE
OF THE PREVIOUS FINAL SERVES.

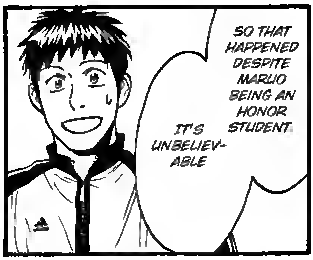
THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAJECTORY PROBABILITY
ONE SPIN AND..

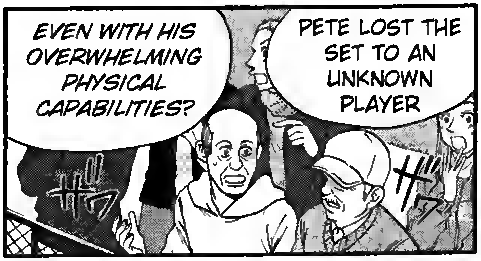
OR.. HAVE I NOT YET SEEN THE LIMIT OF HIS ALACRITY?
DAMN IT! NO GOOD
OUT!
THAT WAS FASTER THAN ANYTHING UP UNTIL NOW
I'M CONFUSED. THE SECOND SERVE IS INCOMING, HOW WILL HE PRODUCE IT?
HERE WE GO

YES!
THE SECOND SERVE WAS EVEN FASTER?

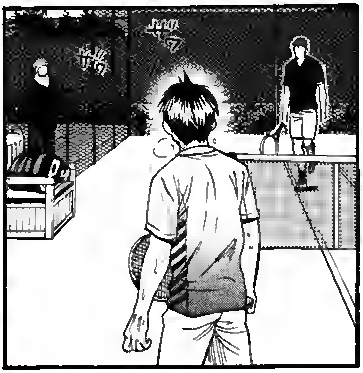
FIRST SET WON
BY MARUO
6 — 4
I WON IT!

THIS IS WHERE I PROVE THAT I CAN BECOME A PRO!
ABSOLUTELY AWESOME
THIS IS GREAT
THE FIRST SET IS MINE
I II
6
4
onzales
(USA)


IT'S UNBELIEVABLE
SO THAT HAPPENED DESPITE MARUO BEING AN HONOR STUDENT


EVEN WITH HIS OVERWHELMING PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES?
PETE LOST THE SET TO AN UNKNOWN PLAYER

THAT LAST SERVE WAS HONESTLY SO FAST THAT I COULDN'T FATHOM IT.
NOT EVEN MY SMALL COMEBACK MADE A DIFFERENCE,
THE SET DEVELOPED INTO AN UNEXPECTED ENDING.



DAD?
DAD I...
I WANT TO QUIT BASEBALL
THE OTHER DAY
I SAW YOU THROWING UP IN THE TOILET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
PETE..

....
B-BUT
EVEN THOUGH I OUGHT TO LOVE BASEBALL..
YOU ARE NOT A BURDEN,
BUT I WILL ADMIT, IT'S A BIT DISSAPOINTING
I WILL BE A BURDEN TO EVERYONE IF I QUIT, WON'T I?
I CAN'T HELP BEING SCARED.
I'TS BECAUSE WE LIKE TO WATCH YOU FLOURISH
WE DON'T SUPPORT YOU FOR THE SAKE OF SUPPORTING YOU
IF YOU DECIDE TO GO FOR WHAT YOU WANT, YOU WON'T HEAR A WORD OF COMPLAINT FROM ANYONE
IN YOUR GRIEF I THINK YOU HAVE FAILED TO TAKE THAT FACT INTO CONSIDERATION

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T HAVE REGRETS?
IF YOU QUIT NOW YOU CAN'T TURN BACK TO THE SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
DAD..
SORRY
IT'S FINE, AS LONG AS YOU ARE OK.
YES.. I UNDERSTAND

EVEN THOUGH I BETRAYED THEM, EVERYONE CAME TO CHEER ME ON

I WANT TO SHOW THEM WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF
ゴク
ゴク
I WANT TO SHOW THEM MY BRAND OF TENNIS
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T KEEP DOING THE SAME THING
PETE IS PROBABLY GOING TO SWITCH UP HIS PLAYSTYLE AFTER LOSING THE FIRST SET.
カキ
カキ
カキ
カキ

TIME
I HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF THIS LEAD AND LOOK FOR THE BEST WAY TO COUNTER PETE'S STRATEGY
THE FIRST SET OCCUPIED MY MIND TOO MUCH
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MORE I FELL INTO MARUO'S TRAP
SECOND SET

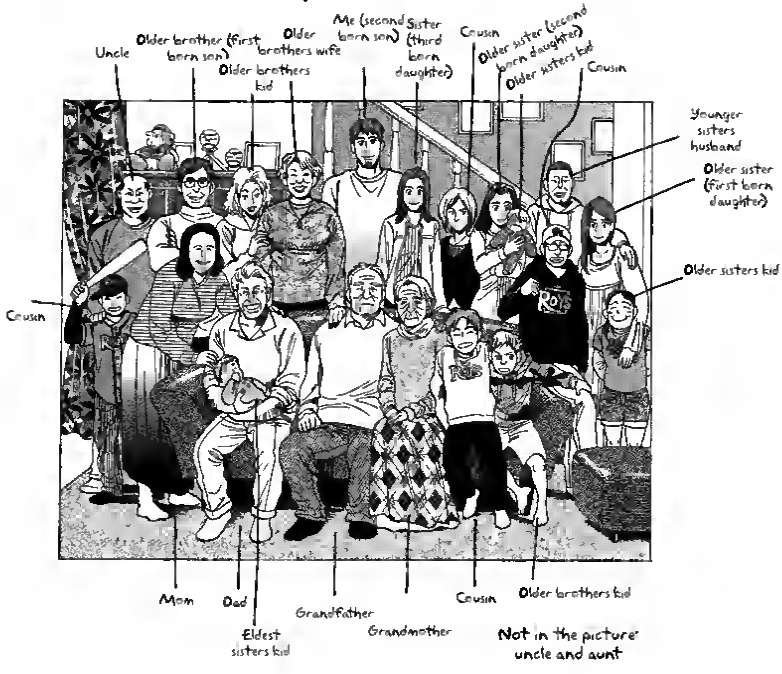
WIDE?
EVEN WHEN MAKING A CHANGE IN EXECUTION, HIS SERVES ARE SO FAST
FAULT!

BUT ON THE SECOND SERVE I HAVE A CHANCE
DURING THE FIRST SET I GOT USED TO THE FOREHAND SLICES
IF HE DOES THAT AGAIN I WILL ATTACK
SO HE IS STAYING IN THE BACK-GROUND. DOES HE NOT INTEND TO COME?

THEREFORE I OUGHT TO DO A FAST SLICE NOW
PREVIOUSLY I USED A SLOW SLICE..
IT CAME!
HE MET IT WITHOUT HESITATION

DRAWN CLOSER!!
THE FRONT OF THE COURT?

# Pete's Family



Baby Steps

RAW PROVIDER
**FA**

REDRAWER
**Oda**

TRANSLATOR
**Scruffy8642**

CLEANER
**ManhHai090**

PROOFREADER
**Tienizard**

QUALITY CHECKER
**Kyou Kai**

TYPESETTER
**Maar**

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DISCORD.ME/FASCANS

PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING THIS MANGA TO SUPPORT THE AUTHOR WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!

# 285 BABY STEPS

BY KACHIKI HIKARU

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY FALLEN ANGELS

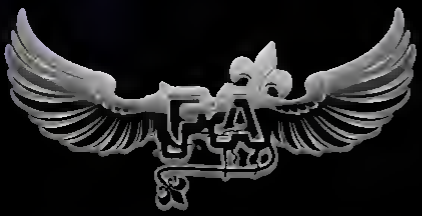
# ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dear our beloved readers,**

**Recently we have been receiving a large amount of traffic as we release more chapters, especially on Thursday with My Hero Academia, Haikyuu, Shokugeki no Soma. While this is a good news, we now have to face a new problem as well: our current server cannot handle that much traffic, and as the result, you can see our site slow, or sometimes down on Thursday. Therefore, we need your help, to be specific, we need DONATION with a fixed amount each month, as you can see on our homepage, it is $50/month. We will use the donation to upgrade our current server and it allows us to purchase RAWs for some of our current series and future series. So if you can help us out, please donate, each and every bit is appreciated!**

**Alternatively, if you cannot donate, we might start placing ads. With the current traffic, we think it is sufficient for us to finance ourselves. However, we have not found out any proper ads providers yet, all of the previous ones caused redirects, popups, malwares, etc which annoyed you readers a lot. So we hope you can suggest us some good ads providers besides AdSense by sending it to our email at *fascans090@gmail.com*.**

**Thanks a lot for your support!**



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# ANNOUNCEMENT

We're looking to pick up a series named Rnhndenashi Blnes, which has not been npdated for a while. In order to do that, we're looking for one TRANSLATOR and one PROOFREADER.

We've tried reaching them and the older group, but have received no replies so far.
This is why we've come here to ask if there's someone interested in worhing on this series.
We have people worhing on all other positions, and only require one TRANSLATOR and one PROOFREADER that would lihe to worh with us.

Before reaching us, please check out our requirements:
TRANSLATOR:
– Must be comfortable enough to translate from Japanese to English.
– Fluent in English

PROOFREADER:
– Their native language is English (but if your command of the English language is awesome, even if you're a non-native, do apply!)
– Have extensive hnowledge of the English language and grammar.
– Basic Japanese hnowledge (optional hut wonld be very awesome!)

If you're interested, please directly reach us on onr Discord: https://discord.gg/QrSzdXT and if you have any other query, email us here: fascans090@gmail.com

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IN ORDER TO MAKE USE OF ALL I HAVE...
MY EYESIGHT, BODY, PHYSICAL ABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY...
I HAVE TO GO TOWARDS THE NET!!
#285 SMILE
TO GET IT PAST HIM, SHOULD I HIT RIGHT? LEFT? OVER THE TOP?
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, HIS COURSE IS LOOSE!
BUT BECAUSE HE'S COME FORWARD TO ATTACK, MY TEMPO IS TOO FAST.
UNTIL NOW HE'S TAKEN A STEP BACK IN ORDER TO HIT A FINISHER.

HIT A STRONG ONE STRAIGHT AT HIM.
WAS THAT A LITTLE HIGH?
GAPS!
THERE ARE NO...
IN THAT CASE, I'LL...

ミシッ
...
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トン
!?
EH...
FOR PETE TO FAIL TO REACT TO A HEAD-ON BALL...
YOU HAVE A POINT... IT WAS IN A HARD TO REACH SPOT THOUGH.
0 — 15

IN TENNIS YOU CAN ONLY RETURN THE BALL WITH THE RACKET.
RE YOU OKAY?
AH, YES.
YOU'RE HIS FATHER.
ガヴ
ガヴ
GIVEN THAT THE BALL HIT PETE AND IT CROSSED THE NET TOO, SHOULDN'T IT BE HIS POINT AS A DEAD BALL?
NO, THIS ISN'T BASE-BALL...
....
MHM...
SFX: FUU
I DON'T KNOW THE REASON, BUT HIS MOVEMENTS ARE WORSE RIGHT NOW THAN IN OUR PRACTICE MATCH
NORMALLY PETE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN IT.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ATTACK!
KUH
GO!

PETE'S MOVEMENTS HAVE GOTTEN STIFF.
SAYING THAT, IT'S NOT JUST HIS FAULT HE'S CURRENTLY DOWN IN POINTS.
MARUO-KUN HAS BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF HIS FOREHAND SLICE.
LIKE HE'S USING THE FACT THAT PETE'S BEEN AIMING FOR THEM AND CHANGING THE SPEED AND COURSE.
HE'S FORCED HIS WAY UP FRONT!

0 — 30
PART OF IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE HE TOOK THE FIRST SET, BUT IT'S STARTED TO LOOK LIKE HE'S MANIPULATING PETE.
MARUO-KUN'S PLAY-STYLE INVOLVES DISRUPTING HIS OPPONENT'S TENNIS.
HE'S PUTTING OFF PETE'S TIMING AND GRADUALLY STOPPING HIM FROM PERFORM-ING HIS OWN PLAYS

IS HIS CHANGE-OF-PACE REALLY THIS STRONG ...?!
WHEN MARUO-KUN DRAWS HIS OPPONENTS IN...

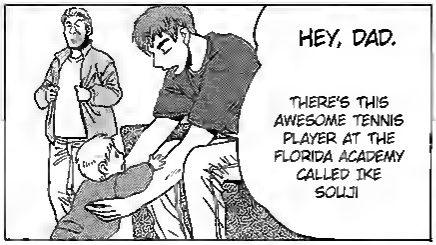
GAME MARUO
1 — 0
SECOND SET
AND I'M ABLE TO PLAY TO MY OWN TENNIS!
I BROKE AT THE START OF THE SET!
10アン
MARUO COMPLETELY CUT HIM OFF WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO TAKE THE MOMENTUM
Could this be it for him?
ISN'T THIS KINDA BAD FOR PETE?!
MARUO'S ACTUALLY GOT THE UPPER HAND IN THE SECOND SET AS WELL...!

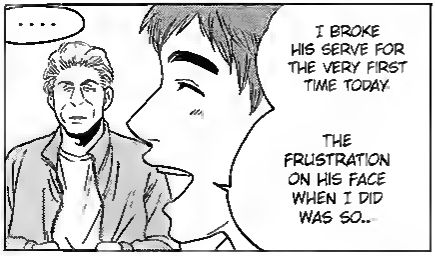
IT'S THE FIRST TIME DAD'S COME TO WATCH ME PLAY IN A LONG TIME AS WELL...
WHAT AM I DOING NOW IS EXACTLY THE TIME I SHOULD BE PLAYING MY OWN TENNIS TOO
.....
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO PETE?
ISN'T HE KINDA TENSE?
HEY! SHOW ME THAT SMILE!

HEY, HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH. YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE HIM ADVICE.
HOW WAS THAT ADVICE?
WELL THAT'S TRUE. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT TENNIS SO JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, OKAY?
DAD?
SUMAIRU*? IS HE TELLING HIM TO SMILE? IS THAT HIS FATHER?
TN: BECAUSE PETE'S DAD SPOKE IN ENGLISH
I'VE BEEN WITH HIM SINCE HE WAS A KID AFTER ALL.
HM. BUT I KNOW PETE BETTER THAN ANYONE.
LISTEN UP, PETE. IF YOU'RE EVER SUFFERING, THE FIRST THING TO DO IS SMILE.
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING THIS IS THE TIME FOR HIM TO SMILE.

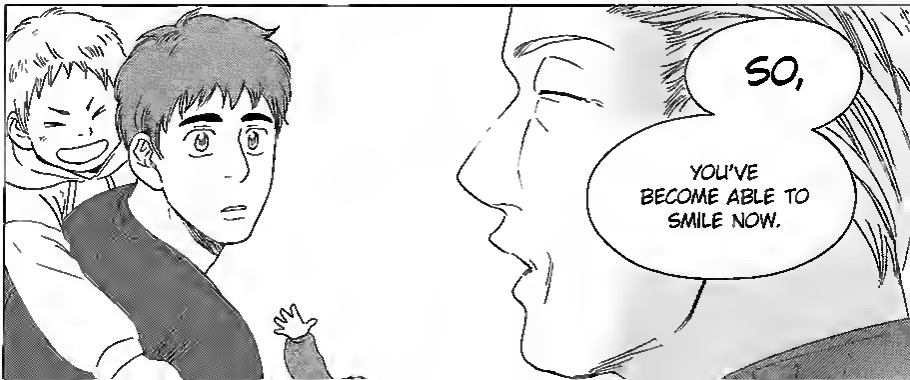
DON'T EVER FORGET THIS.
AS A FAMILY, WE ARE CONSTANTLY SUPPORTING EACH OTHER SO WE CAN SMILE.

WHEN YOU PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE, IT'LL SPREAD TO THE REST OF YOUR BODY AND EVEN YOUR HEART.
SEE...? ANY BUILT UP TENSION IS RELEASED, RIGHT?


HEY, DAD.
THERE'S THIS AWESOME TENNIS PLAYER AT THE FLORIDA ACADEMY CALLED IKE SOUJI


....
I BROKE HIS SERVE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME TODAY.
THE FRUSTRATION ON HIS FACE WHEN I DID WAS SO..

THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER NOW.
WHAT MY DAD TOLD ME WHEN BASEBALL GOT TOO HARD AND I QUIT...


SO,
YOU'VE BECOME ABLE TO SMILE NOW.

I CHOSE THE PATH OF TENNIS SO I'D BE ABLE TO SMILE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART AGAIN.
YEAH. FROM THAT MOMENT, I...
OKAY I'M GOING TO KEEP THIS GAME NO MATTER WHAT.
TIME.
チラ

HIS FATHER TOLD HIM TO SMILE, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY DOING IT.
MARUO-KUN'S NOT SMILING WITH HIM THOUGH
I HAVE TO TAKE CAUTION WITH HIM FROM NOW ON.

HE'S ALREADY COMING FORWARD? HE'S CERTAINLY FASTER TO COME UP THAN BEFORE!

I'LL USE A SINK-ER!
KUH.
IT'S DEEP AND SMOOTH WITH GOOD FORCE TOO.

0 — 15
HE DID IT!
UHH.
THANK YOU, DAD.
YES. I GOT RID OF MY TENSION AND I CAN MOVE NATURALLY UNLIKE BEFORE
HE STILL MOVED FORWARD JUST LIKE BEFORE BUT HIS MOVEMENTS AND HITS WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT

IT'S LIKE HE'S FOCUSED WHILE ACTIVELY RELAXING...
NO, THEY'RE BETTER THAN USUAL.
BabolaT

BUT BECAUSE OF MY 1 SET LEAD AND THAT BREAK, I CAN BE DARING WITH MY PLAYS.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT PETE'S IN GOOD CONDITION...
I WILL TAKE THE OFFEN-SIVE...
AND BEAT PETE HERE!

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Oda

TRANSLATOR
Scruffy8642

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Tienizard

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
Bentoki

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# 286 BABY STEPS

BY KACHIKI HIKARU

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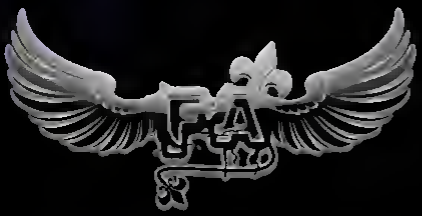

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

We're looking to pick up a series named Rnhndenashi Blnes, which has not been npdated for a while. In order to do that, we're looking for one TRANSLATOR and one PROOFREADER.

We've tried reaching them and the older group, but have received no replies so far.
This is why we've come here to ask if there's someone interested in worhing on this series.
We have people worhing on all other positions, and only require one TRANSLATOR and one PROOFREADER that would lihe to worh with us.

Before reaching us, please check out our requirements:
TRANSLATOR:
– Must be comfortable enough to translate from Japanese to English.
– Fluent in English

PROOFREADER:
– Their native language is English (but if your command of the English language is awesome, even if you're a non-native, do apply!)
– Have extensive hnowledge of the English language and grammar.
– Basic Japanese hnowledge (optional hut wonld be very awesome!)

If you're interested, please directly reach us on onr Discord: https://discord.gg/QrSzdXT and if you have any other query, email us here: fascans090@gmail.com

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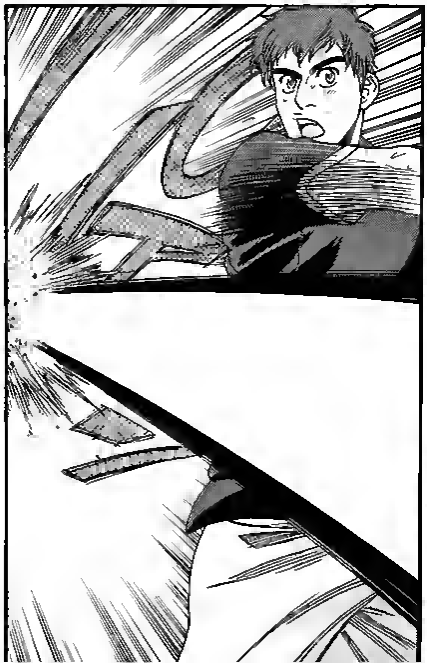
TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AND WIN AGAINST PETE IN HIS CURRENT STATE,
I NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY LEAD AND BE MORE DARING IN MY SERVE GAMES.
#286 WIPEOUT

HE WAS AIMING FOR THE RETURN

BOTH HIS SHOTS AND MOVEMENTS HAVE SUDDENLY IMPROVED
SO THAT "SMILE" REALLY DID SHIFT HIM UP A GEAR.



BUT I HAVE ONE SET AND A BREAK LEAD!

LOB
HE'S COMING AT ME WITH AT LEAST AS MUCH RISK.

MIKE! YOU WERE WATCHING?
IT LOOKS LIKE PETE WAS ABLE TO GET IN A GOOD MENTAL STATE.
AMAZING. AN EXCHANGE OF RISING SHOTS!
HE SAID SINCE HE QUIT BASEBALL, HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO MOVE VERY WELL WHEN HE GETS INTO SITUATIONS WHERE HE FEELS HE HAS TO WIN
PETE OFTEN CAME TO ME FOR ADVICE AS HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL COACH
I WAS GETTING A LITTLE WORRIED.
EH?
SO I GAVE HIM QUITE A BIT OF ADVICE ON THAT, BUT.
GIVEN THE LOOKS OF HIM AT THE MOMENT
HE SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY BROKEN DOWN THAT WALL.

MOST LIKELY. PEOPLE RELAX WHEN THEY SMILE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY, EVEN IF FORCED, THE BODY WILL RESPOND BY RELAXING TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.
HE WAS IN A TOUGH SITUATION, BUT SINCE HE'S STARTED SMILING HE SEEMS TO HAVE IMPROVED.
DO YOU THINK THAT WAS REALLY WHAT CAUSED THE CHANGE?
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY THAT PAIRED WITH THE FACT PETE HAS ALSO REALISED THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF SMILING.
BY PERCEIVING HIS DIFFICULT PAST AS A POSITIVE, HE'S BECOME ABLE TO SMILE FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART, EVEN AMIDST THIS PRESSURE.

DAMMIT. .
INCREASING THE RISK OF MY ATTACKS IS ACTUALLY WORKING TO HIS ADVANTAGE?
HE'S STILL ABLE TO REACH AND RETURN THEM SMOOTHLY.
AND I CAN SEE HIS RELAXED MOVEMENTS EASILY.
EVEN THOUGH I'M HITTING BALLS WITH PRETTY DIFFICULT COURSES,
I'M LOSING . I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SMILING, BUT .
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M FACING AN OPPONENT WHO'S COMING AT ME WITH SUCH STRONG FEELINGS SO.
MARUO HAS BEEN AMAZING TODAY.

I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT ENJOY IT!
I'M GLAD I GOT TO PLAY MARUO TODAY.
FOR THAT VERY REASON, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO HIM.
I'LL VARY THE SPEED OF MY BALLS THE BEST I CAN!

HIS REACTION IS QUICK!!

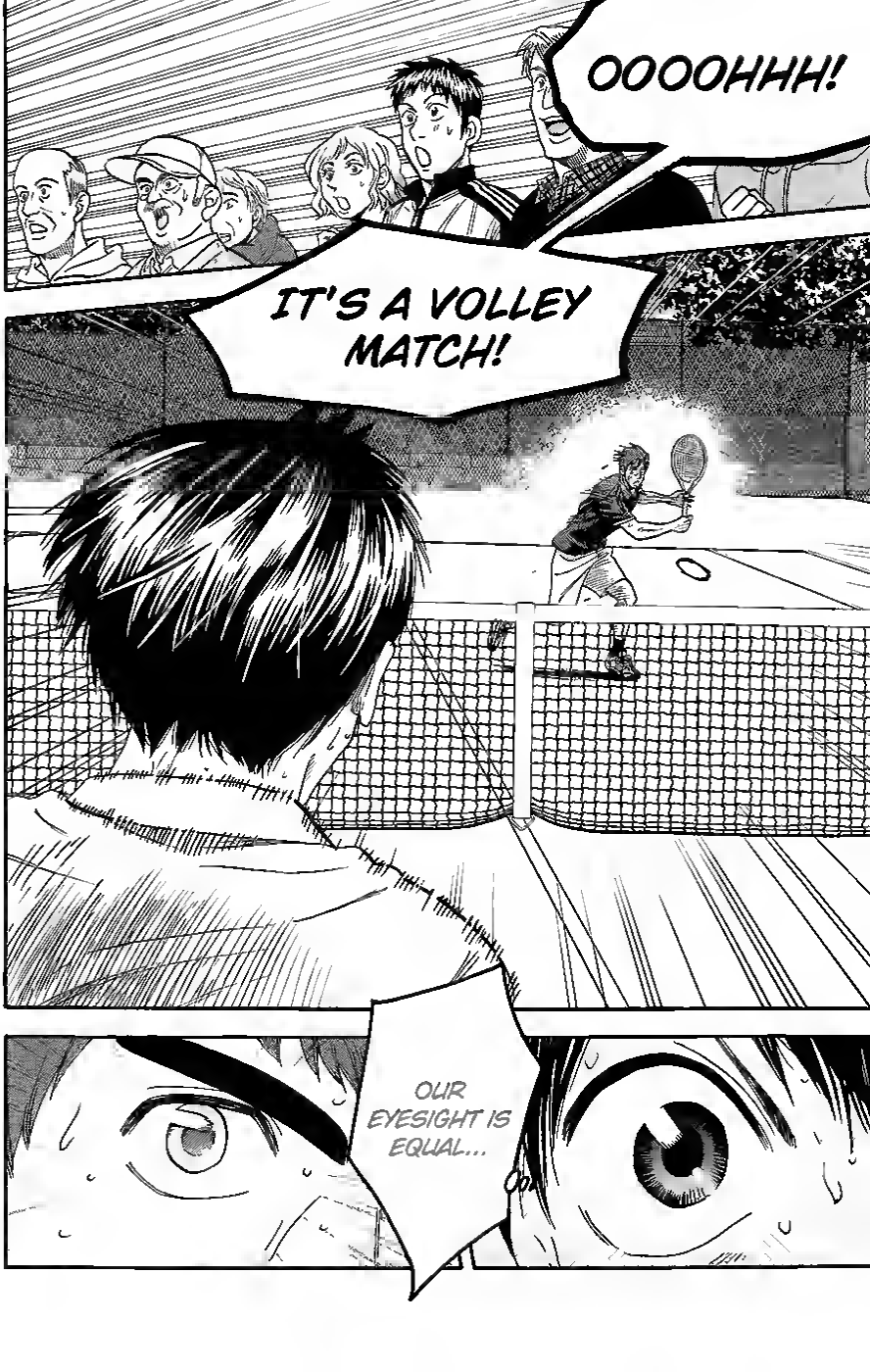
GAME GONZALES
1 — 1
SECONO SET
Babolat
ALRIGHT, HERE IT IS! HE BROKE BACK!!

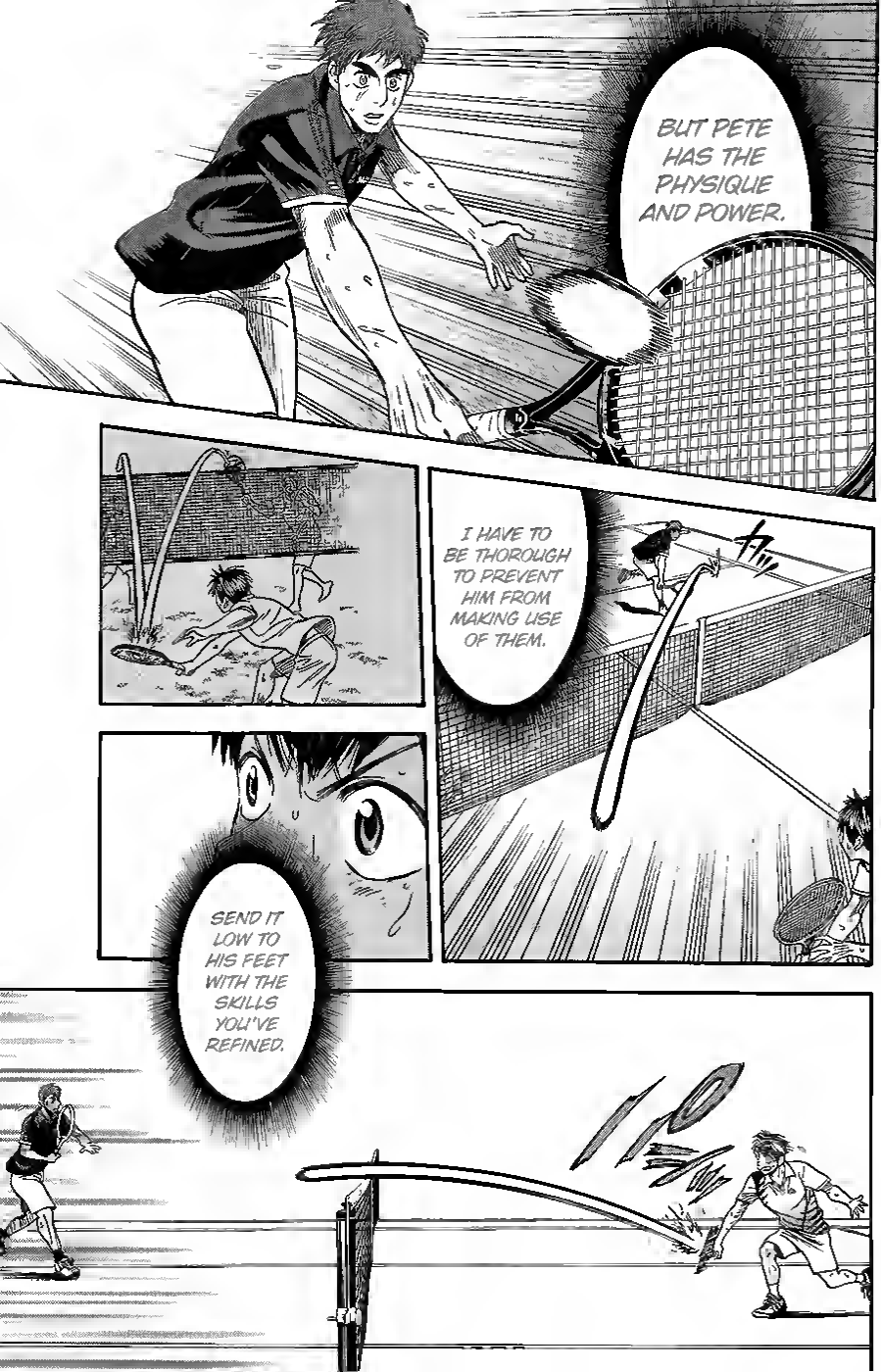
THEY'RE NOT LIKE THE INSUFFERABLE FEELINGS I FELT WHEN I WANTED TO WIN FOR THEM.
WHEN I STARTED SMILING, I ACTUALLY BEGAN TO HAVE FUN.
ON TOP OF THAT, I NATURALLY WANT TO WIN AS WELL.
DAD, I THINK I'VE FINALLY WORKED IT OUT.
EVERYONE WISHING FOR MY HAPPINESS ISN'T A CAUSE OF PRESSURE, IT'S A STRENGTH.

IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO WIN WHILE SMILING AND ENJOYING MYSELF, BUT...
THE WAY I AM RIGHT NOW...
I CAN DO THIS.
HE'S BEGUN PRESSURING ME WITH A STROKE EXCHANGE.
THAT SAID, PETE'S ALSO GOOD AT VOLLEYING.
I GET THE FEELING TAKING ANY MORE THOUGHTLESS RISKS WILL BE DANGEROUS.

I II III
E.Maruo
(JPN)
6 1
P.Gonzales
(USA)
4 1
TO START MAKING A COMEBACK, I NEED...
TO USE MY SPECIALTY, SERVE AND VOLLEY!!

IF I CAN'T TAKE THE UPPER HAND ON THE RETURNS, I'LL AIM TOWARDS HIS FEET SO HE CAN'T SMASH IT.
I'LL DROP IT DOWN LOW AGAIN WITH SOME SLOW BACKSPIN.
HE RETURNED IT WELL... I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE WITH A TEMPO THIS FAST.
AND USE THE BALL'S FLIGHT TIME TO MOVE UP!

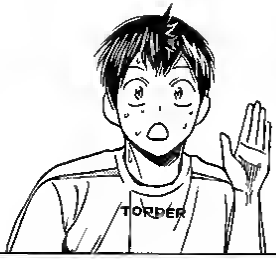

OOOOHHH!
IT'S A VOLLEY MATCH!
OUR EYESIGHT IS EQUAL...


BUT PETE HAS THE PHYSIQUE AND POWER.
I HAVE TO BE THOROUGH TO PREVENT HIM FROM MAKING USE OF THEM.
SEND IT LOW TO HIS FEET WITH THE SKILLS YOU'VE REFINED.

LOW.
IF I RETURN IT LOW, HE CAN'T SMASH IT.
HIT IT LOW!

EVEN LOWER!!

NOW!!


TORPEDO

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theLove_cleaner

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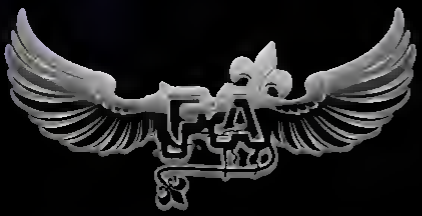

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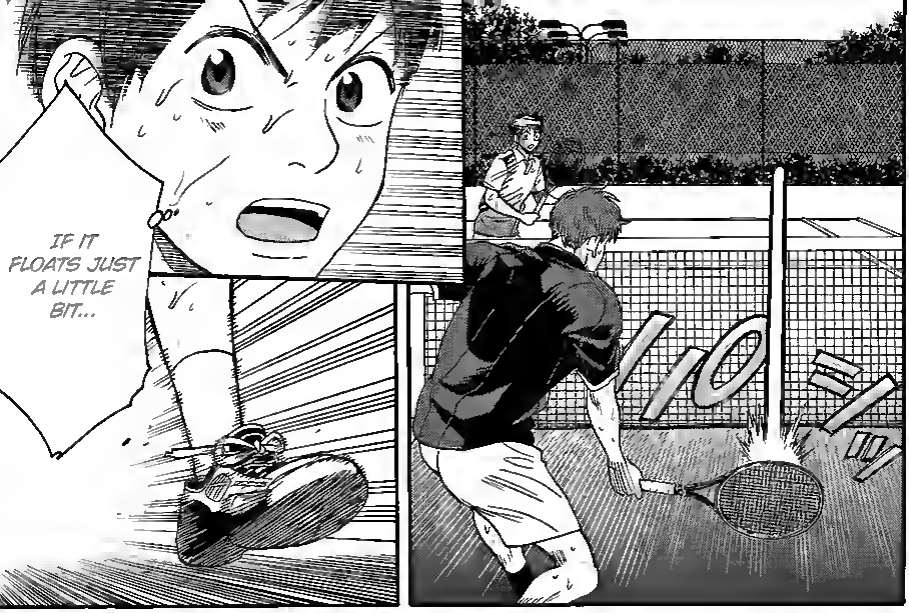
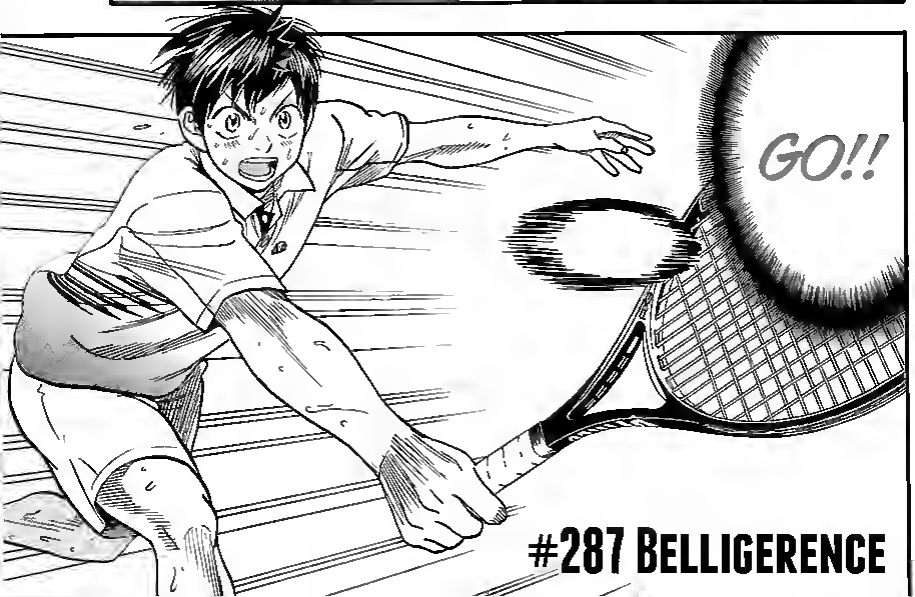
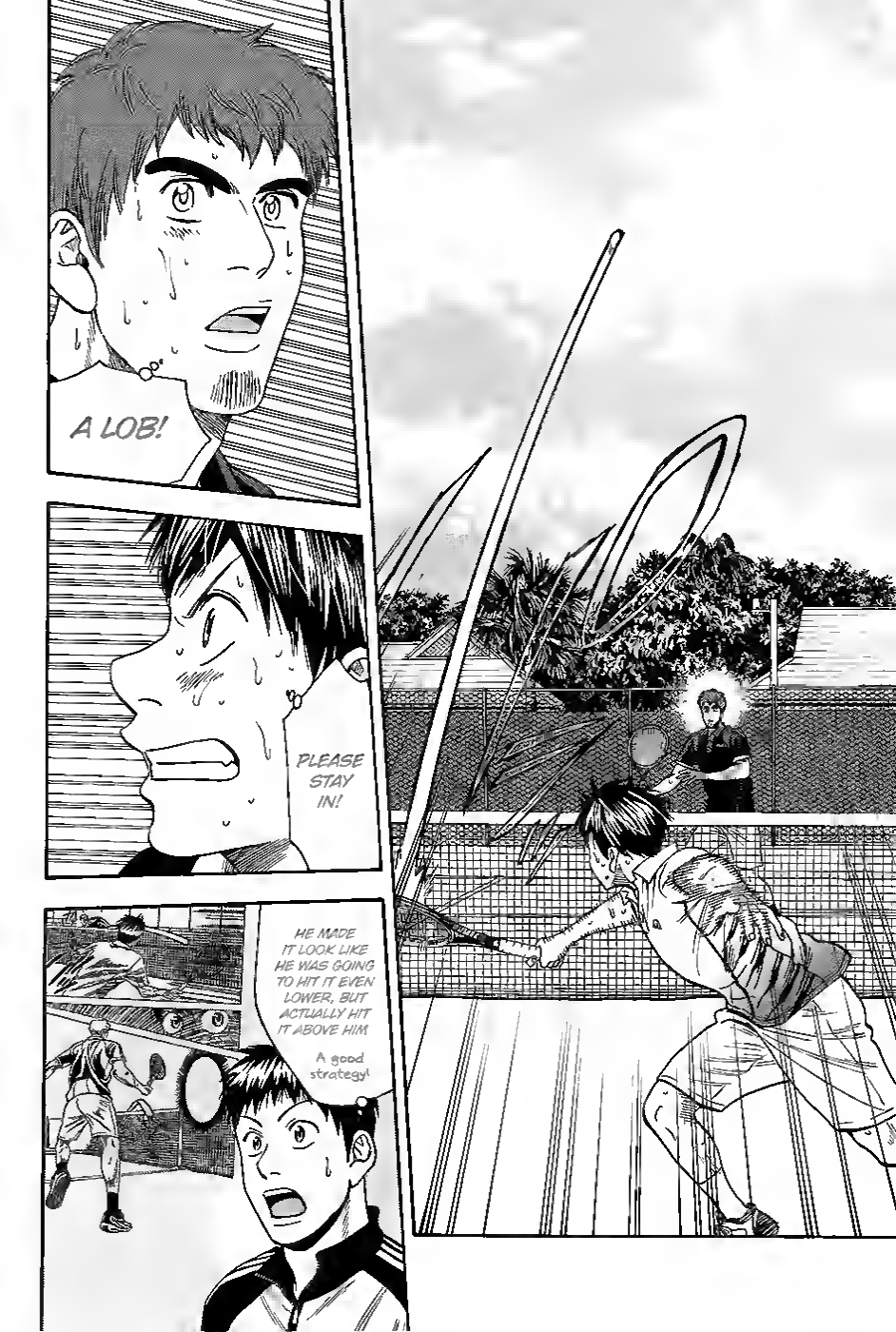
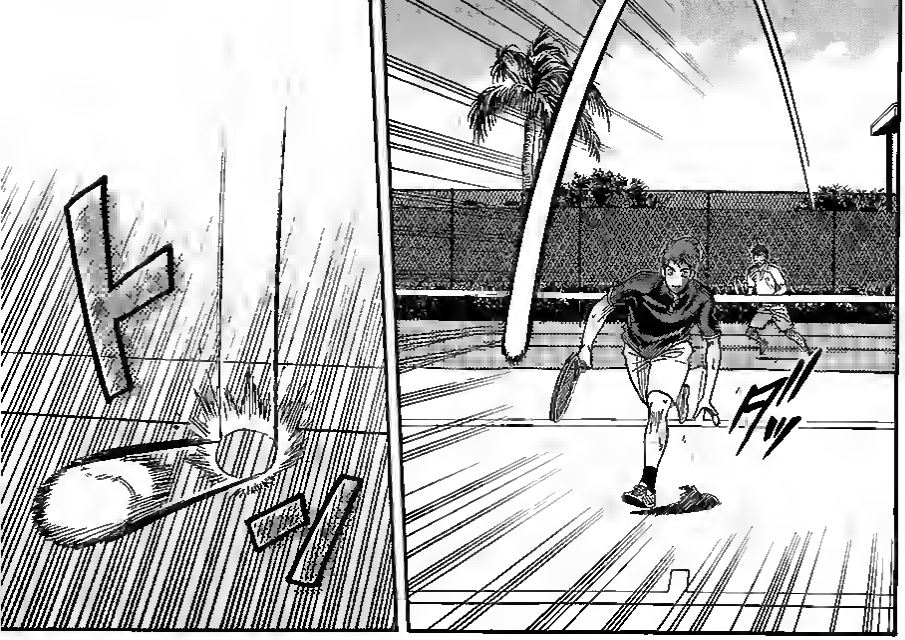





# #287 Belligerence


A LOB!
PLEASE STAY IN!
HE MADE IT LOOK LIKE HE WAS GOING TO HIT IT EVEN LOWER, BUT ACTUALLY HIT IT ABOVE HIM.
A good strategy!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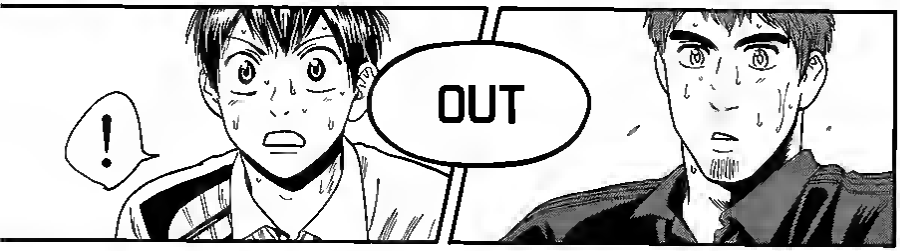

!
OUT

オ
オ
BOTH OF THEM HAVE GREAT EYESIGHT AND REACTIONS, BUT
MARUO-KUN IS CHALLENGING PETE'S SUPERIOR PHYSIQUE AND POWER WITH HIS TECHNIQUE AND STRATEGY.
LOOKS LIKE THIS WILL BE WORTH WATCHING.

オ
オ
SO CLOSE! THAT WAS AN INCREDIBLE VOLLEY MATCH!
PETE'S VOLLEYING REALLY DOES HAVE A DIFFERENT EDGE TO IT!
NO, I'M TELLING YOU MARUO WAS DOMINANT THERE!

THAT WAS CLOSE... IN MY OWN SERVE GAME, HE BROUGHT THE FIGHT TO ME IN A VOLLEY MATCH...
ARE MY SERVES STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
ALMOST GOT HIM...
THAT WASN'T A BAD MISS!
I CAN'T COMPETE WITH PETE WHEN IT COMES TO SIZE OR SPEED.
I'LL BE CLEVER BY SEIZING THE TIMING...
AND USING THE TECHNIQUES I POSSESS TO ATTACK.

Ba

VOLLEY BATTLES ARE FUN, BUT...
WITH A MATCH AS ENJOYABLE AS THIS, I REALLY DO WANT TO ENGAGE HIM WITH MY OWN TENNIS.
KUH.
40 — 0
OOH! THAT'S THE WAY!
BY USING HIS FLEXIBILITY TO ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL, HE CAN HIT AN ULTRAFAST SERVE THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE EVEN AGAINST PROS!
YES!
30 — 0

THIS IS HOW I PLAY TENNIS, DAD!
ALRIGHT! HE MANAGED TO KEEP WITHOUT AN ISSUE!
THAT'S THE WAY, UNCLE!
I SEE... I UNDERSTAND NOW, PETE.
EH?
PETE GONZALEZ
2 — 1
SECONO SET
I'LL GET THE MAJORITY OF MY POINTS IN THE FIRST SET
AND SHUT HIM DOWN WITH OVERWHELMING DOMINANCE!

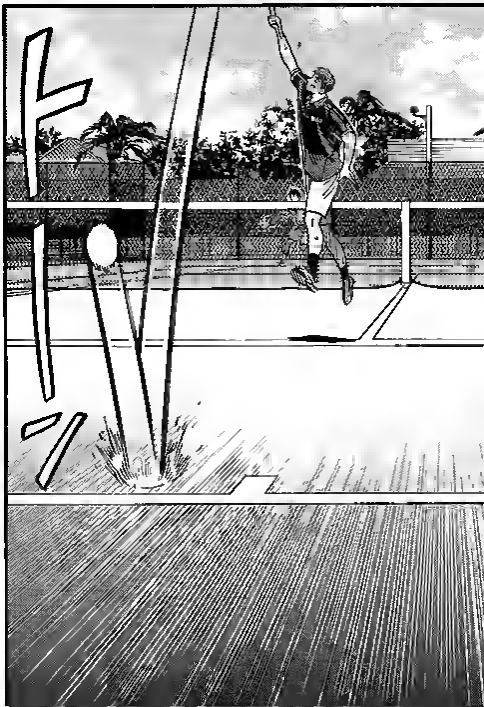
YOU'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD.
TIME
I KNOW THAT IF I MAKE USE OF EVERYTHING I HAVE SO FAR AND ATTACK CAREFULLY, I CAN BEAT HIM!
カキ
カキ
カキ
HE SCORED MOST OF HIS POINTS WITH SERVES. I DIDN'T EVEN GET THE CHANCE TO ATTACK.
THIS IS PETE WHEN HE'S IN GOOD CONDITION. HE REALLY IS STRONG.
SFX: FUU
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GETTING MY ASS KICKED.

HE'S BEING ASSERTIVE!
A RETURN DASH!

15 — 0

WHAT A NICE POINT.
THAT CONTROL IS INCREDIBLE.

BY MESSING WITH THE TIMING, I CAN EASILY STOP HIM FROM MOVING UP
YES, THIS TIME IT WAS IN!



THIS IS MY TENNIS! IT WON'T GO LIKE OUR PAST 8 MATCHES HAVE!
カリ
カリ
NOT BAD. BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOSING A STROKE MATCH IN MY RETURN GAME.
ドン

He's so good...
I CAN EASILY STOP IT FROM BECOMING A POWER MATCH AS WELL
E.Maruo (JPN) 62
P.Gonzales (US.) 42
I'M DOING IT! I'M NOT LOSING AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE PETE WHO'S GOING PRO!

Maruo
(JPN)
62
onzales
(USA)
43
I WILL WIN!
.Maruo
(JPN)
63
Gonzales
(USA)
43
I CAME TO FLORIDA...
SEEKING TO BECOME STRONGER BECAUSE...

I WANT TO GO PRO BECAUSE...

I WANT TO
PLAY MATCHES
LIKE THIS!!

I'M SOMEWHAT ENVIOUS.
HE'S REALLY LIVELY, HUH...
I II III
Maruo (JPN) 64
Gonzales (USA) 44
GAME MARUO
4 — 4
SECOND SET
NOTEBOOK
Campus
テニス 69
WE'RE 4-4 IN THE SECOND SET...
I'LL SETTLE THE MATCH HERE!

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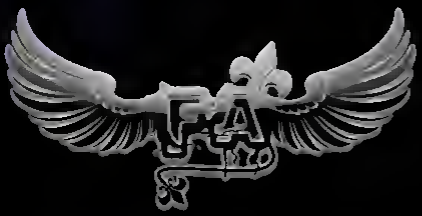

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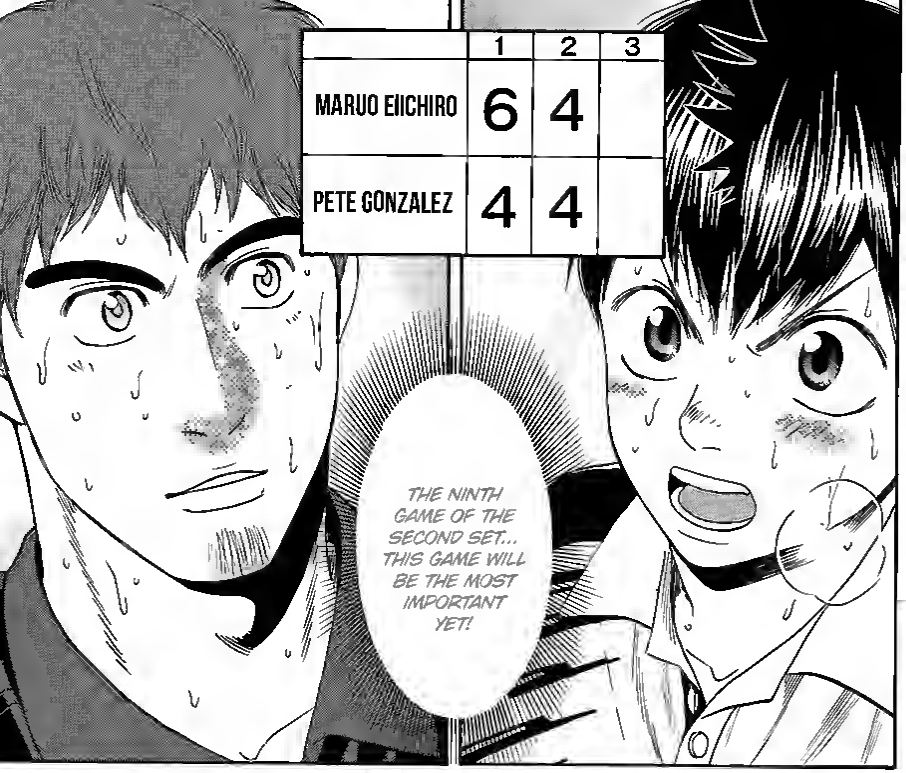
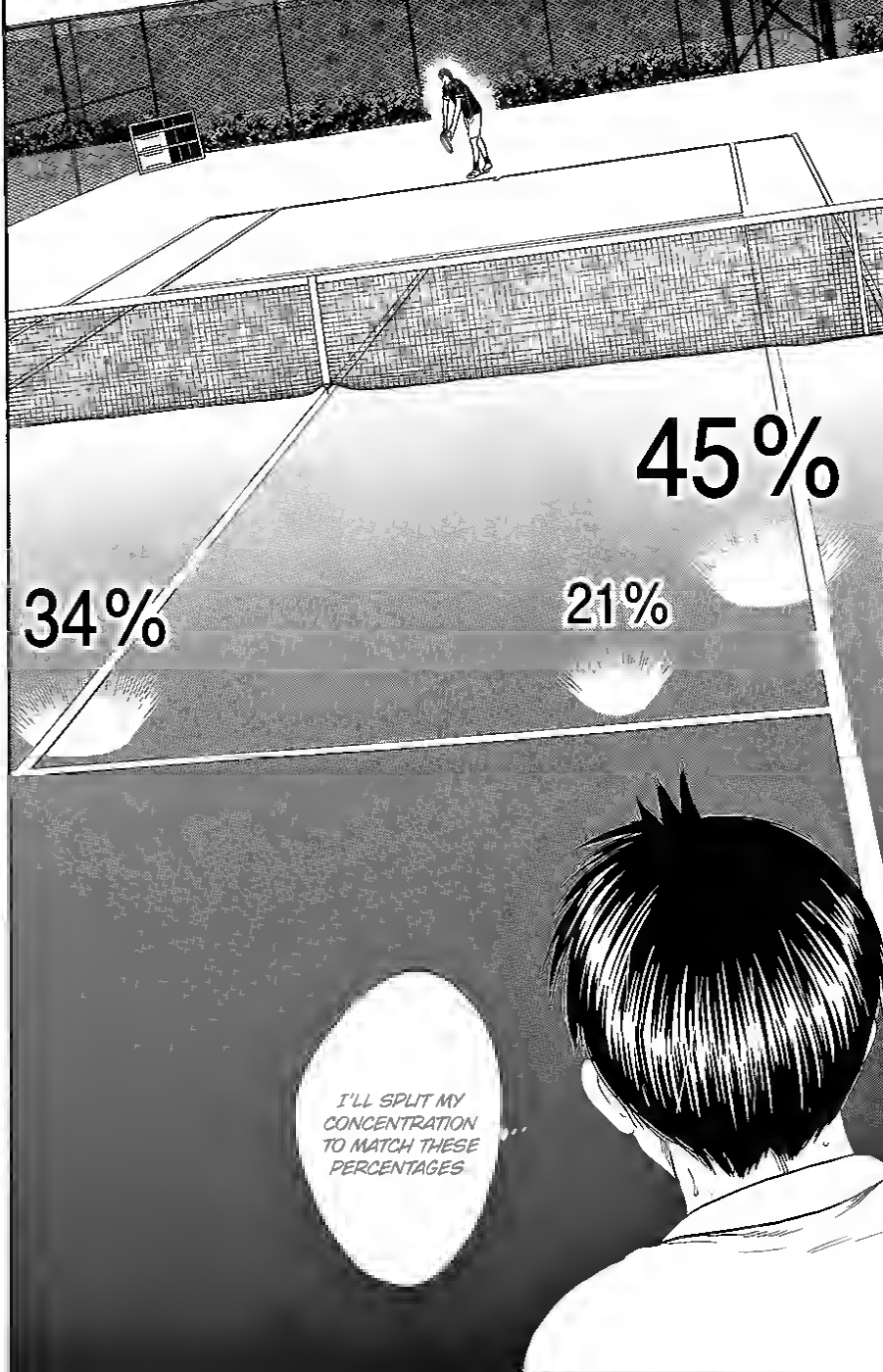


# #288 Power Techniques


45%
34%
21%
I'LL SPLIT MY CONCENTRATION TO MATCH THESE PERCENTAGES...

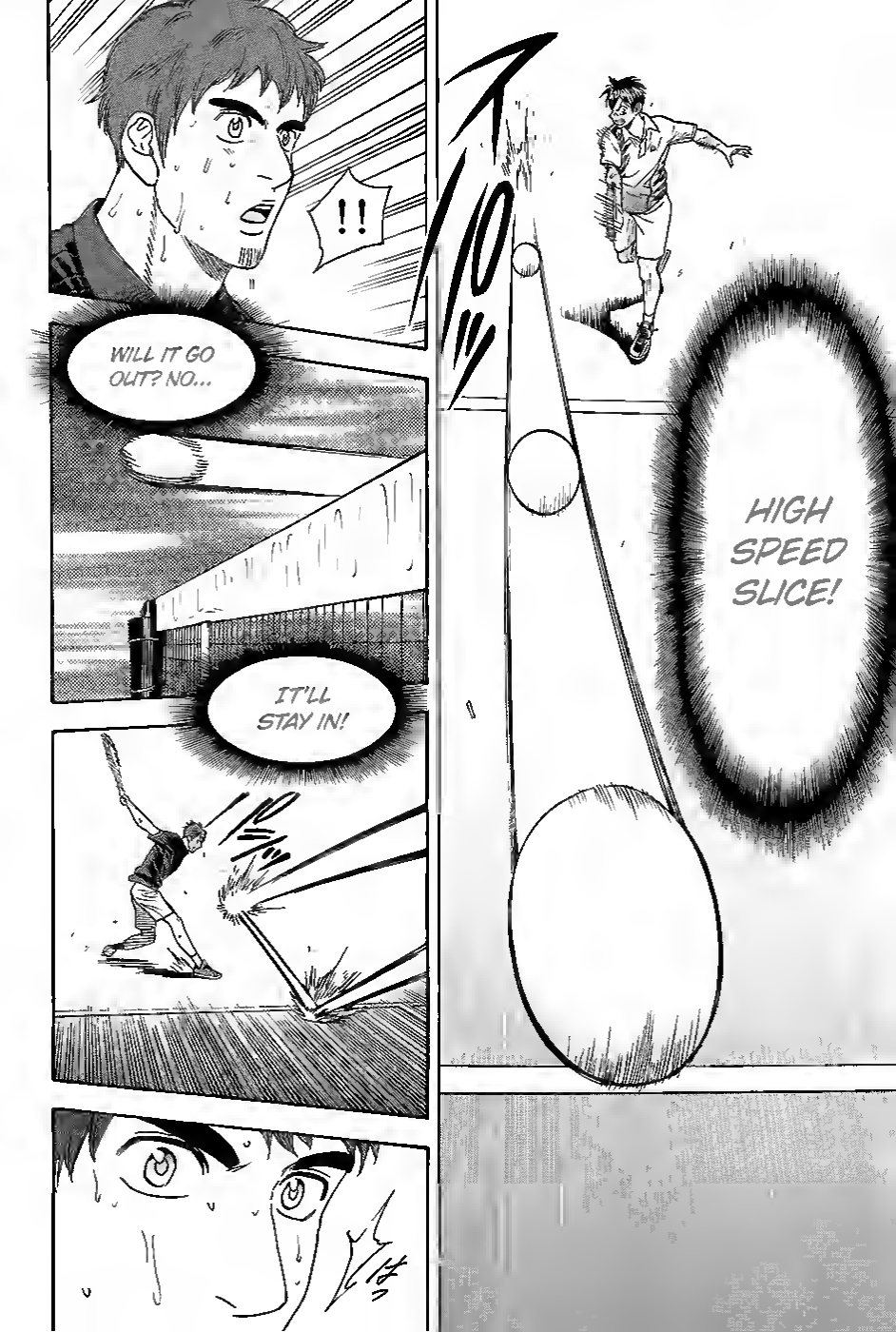
BECAUSE FIXING HIS FORM IS CAUSING HIS SPEED TO DROP, HE'S LIKELY PUTTING SOME PREFERENCE ON HIS REGULAR SERVES.
TAKING THAT INTO ACCOUNT, I WILL MAKE A GENERAL PREDICTION FOR HIS COURSE.
ROUGHLY 40% OF HIS COURSES END UP DIFFERENT TO WHAT HIS FORM DICTATES
ORIGINALLY I WAS ABLE TO READ THE COURSE FROM HIS FORM BUT I CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE
THAT FORM IS FOR A WIDE...
DIRECTION OF MOTION
DIRECTION OF MOTION
SO I SHOULD PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON WATCHING OUT FOR A WIDE THAN THE PERCENTAGES DICTATED...!

15 — 0
EVEN THOUGH I GUESSED IT WAS COMING... WHAT A SERVE.
SO YOU COULD GET YOUR RACKET BEHIND THAT?
FOR HIS NEXT SERVE...

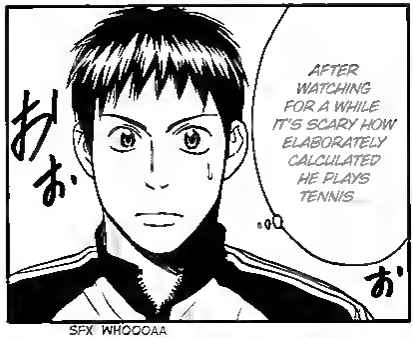
AND HIS FORM IS FOR A CENTRE...
52%
40%
8%
I'LL BE CONSCIOUS OF HIS COURSE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE AD COURT...

OKAY, THIS IS IT. THE SECOND SERVE IS MY CHANCE
HE'S NORMALLY CAREFUL WITH HIS SECOND SERVES SO HE OFTEN CORRECTS HIS FORM
WHAA- THAT ONE WAS TOTALLY IN...
FAULT!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
I SHOULD PUT A LOT OF FOCUS ON THE CENTRE...
HIS FORM IS FOR A WIDE, MEANING...

HE HIT A CENTRE!
IT'S DEEP!
IF HE'S NOT COMING FORWARD AFTER THAT BALL
THEN I'LL BE AGGRESSIVE WITH A...


!!
WILL IT GO OUT? NO...
IT'LL STAY IN!
HIGH SPEED SLICE!

I WON'T GIVE YOU THE TIME TO GET BACK!
YES! ONE DOWN!
15 — 15
THAT'S THE RESULT OF PRESERVING MY FASTEST SLICE UNTIL NOW!
IT WAS RIGHT ON THE EDGE BUT I'M GLAD IT STAYED IN.
IT'S GOOD I TOOK THE ASSERTIVE APPROACH AND MOVED UP!




SFX: WHOOOAA

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お
IN ADDITION TO KEEPING PETE TO THE BASELINE, HE HAD A HIGH POINT OF CONTACT ON THE HIGH-SPEED SLICE
IT DIDN'T JUST GIVE HIM AN ADVANTAGE, BUT IT LOWERED THE RISK ON HIS NEXT SHOT TOO?

SFX: OOOOHH

I CAN'T HIT ANOTHER EASY SECOND SERVE TO MARUO RIGHT NOW...
SO I'D LIKE TO PLAY THE POINT WITH MY FIRST SERVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
I NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS ON MY FIRST SERVES TOO THEN...

MY LAST POINT SHOULD HAVE PUT SOME PRESSURE ON PETE'S SERVING
IN ORDER TO BREAK AGAINST HIM, I FIRST HAVE TO BREAK DOWN HIS SERVES.

IT'S TO-WARDS THE CENTRE! AND IT'S ALSO SLOW!
I CAN REACH IT AS THIS SPEED.
HE'S COME FORWARD..
IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE FOR LOWERING THE RISK ON MY SERVES, I'LL FIGHT HIM WITH MY VOLLEYS!
THEN I'LL...

MAKE USE OF HIS SERVE'S POWER AND...
AIM IT AT HIS BODY WITH ALL MY MIGHT!!

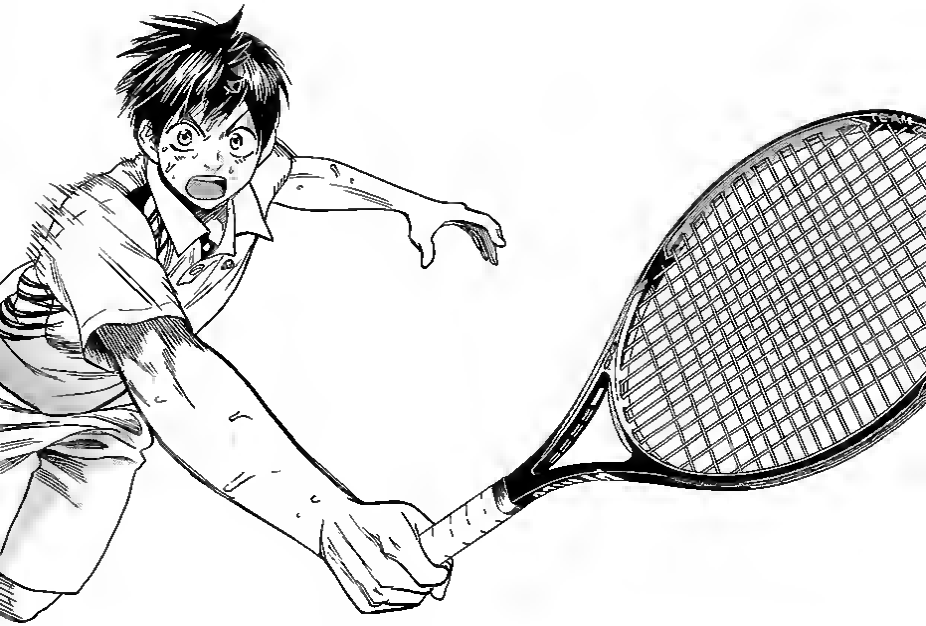
!
15 — 30
カキッ
RATHER, IF PETE HAD LET THAT ONE GO, IT WOULD'VE BEEN OUT, WOULDN'T IT?
POSSIBLY...
OOOH. SO MARUO CAN HIT BALLS THAT FAST TOO?
IT'S BECAUSE I HIT MY FASTEST BALL TODAY AT HIM FROM POINT BLANK RANGE.
PETE HAS SUCH GOOD DYNAMIC VISION, YET IT WAS CLEAR HE COULDN'T PROPERLY REACT
JUST NOW... IT WASN'T LIKE LAST TIME WHERE PETE'S BODY TENSED UP AND HE COULDN'T GET THE BALL...

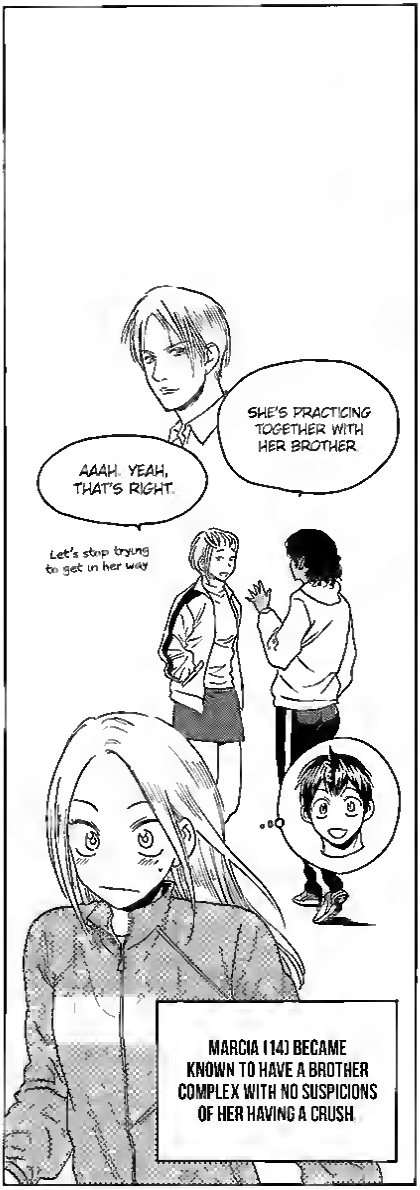
MARUO'S RETURN ON THAT PLAY WAS INTRIGUING, DON'T YOU THINK?
RONNY!
TODAY'S MY DAY OFF, BUT THIS MATCH SPARKED MY INTERESTED SO I'VE COME TO WATCH.
HUH? DON'T YOU HAVE TO COACH IKE-KUN TODAY?
SO THIS IS THE PETE GONZALEZ WHO'S BEEN MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF RECENTLY, HUH?
HE'S VERY MUCH THE PRO-ACTIVE TYPE, MOVING UP TO THE NET TO FIGHT IT OUT.
I SEE.
HE'S SAID TO BE A BIG SERVER, MOSTLY RELYING ON SERVE AND VOLLEYS TO SCORE, BUT HE'S ALSO GOOD WITH HIS FOREHAND SO HE'S QUITE A STRONG PLAYER AT THE BASELINE TOO

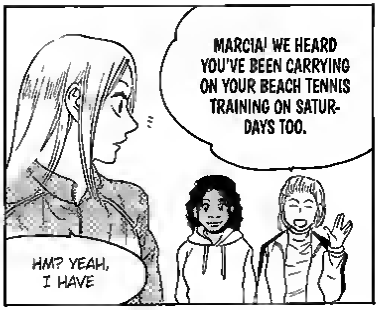
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WITH THOSE SERVES OF HIS, THE SERVE AND VOLLEY IS DEFINITELY A GOOD STRATEGY, BUT HOW IS IT FARING FOR HIM TODAY?
AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT STAGE IT'S NORMAL TO CHOOSE THE TACTIC ONE IS BEST AT, SO I GUESS IT CAN'T BE REALLY HELPED HERE...
BASICALLY, IT'S BECAUSE BALLS COMING FROM THE BASELINE SURPASS A SPEED AT WHICH PEOPLE CAN REACT IF THEY'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE NET. OCCURRENCES OF THIS HAVE INCREASED AS OF LATE, RIGHT?
TOO FAST TO REACT TO
YOU KNOW THE REASON THE NUMBERS OF PLAYERS CATEGORISED AS SERVE AND VOLLEYERS HAS BEEN DECREASING IN RECENT YEARS, RIGHT?
YES. WITH THE EVOLUTION OF RETURNING TECHNIQUES AND RACKETS, IT HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO SCORE FROM NEAR THE NET.
PETE HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT UNTIL NOW, BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT LOOKS LIKE MARUO IS STOPPING HIM FROM DOING SO CURRENTLY.
EXACTLY. THAT'S WHY IF YOU WANT TO SERVE AND VOLLEY NOWADAYS, IT'S BECOME NECESSARY TO FIRST HIT A SERVE THE OPPONENT WON'T BE ABLE TO DRIVE BACK AT YOU WITH FORCE.

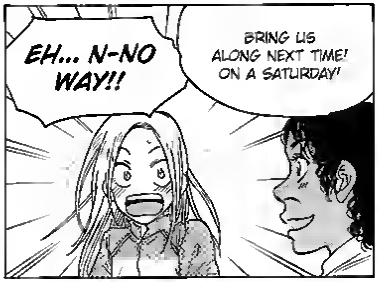
THAT MUST BE IT.
EVEN PETE IS HUMAN. HE CAN'T REACT TO A BALL THAT REACHES HIM FASTER THAN THE LIGHTS FLICKER ON THAT BOARD
SFX: FULL
AND IF THE BALL I HIT BEFORE WAS THAT FAST,
IT MEANS I'VE FOUND AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY AGAINST HIS SERVE AND VOLLEY.

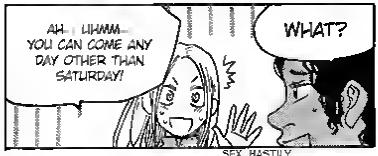
THAT'S HIS CENTRE FORM...
I'LL DEDICATE A LOT OF MY CONCENTRATION TOWARDS THE CENTRE...
AND OVERCOME PETE'S POWER IN ORDER TO WIN
I'LL SURPASS HIM WITH DATA AND TECHNIQUE!
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 31

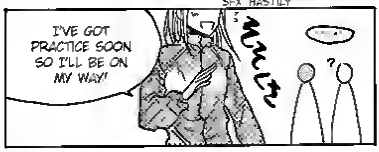



SHE'S PRACTICING TOGETHER WITH HER BROTHER
AAAH. YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
Let's stop trying to get in her way
MARCIA (14) BECAME KNOWN TO HAVE A BROTHER COMPLEX WITH NO SUSPICIONS OF HER HAVING A CRUSH.


MARCIA! WE HEARD YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING ON YOUR BEACH TENNIS TRAINING ON SATURDAYS TOO.
HM? YEAH, I HAVE

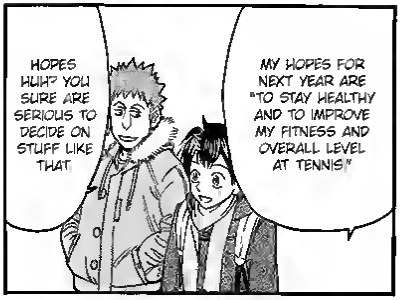

EH... N-NO WAY!!
BRING US ALONG NEXT TIME! ON A SATURDAY!


AH... UHMM... YOU CAN COME ANY DAY OTHER THAN SATURDAY!
WHAT?


SFX: HASTILY
I'VE GOT PRACTICE SOON SO I'LL BE ON MY WAY!

I'VE GOT IT.
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENS ON SATURDAYS
EH?

## A MEANINGFUL YEAR


HOPES HUH? YOU SURE ARE SERIOUS TO DECIDE ON STUFF LIKE THAT.
MY HOPES FOR NEXT YEAR ARE "TO STAY HEALTHY AND TO IMPROVE MY FITNESS AND OVERALL LEVEL AT TENNIS!"

No.

Date

THE KAGE-YAMA OF NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT?
I THOUGHT I'D TAKE SOME INSPIRATION FROM YOU AND START TRYING TO LIVE A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Greetings, Katsuki here.
This entire volume was dedicated
to the match against Pete.
I drew with the hope of conveying Ei-chan's
strength in a way that would be easy
to understand for readers.
How did I do I wonder?

By the way, in an article for the anime,
I wrote "Ei-chan" as "Maroo." This is because
when I'm explaining my characters to others, referring
to them by their nicknames is embarrassing.
But now I've started to feel that excuse
in itself is embarrassing, so now
I'm about fifty-fifty in that regard.
Not that it really matters though.

Well then, I'll see you next volume!